NEPAD AND POVERTY ERADICATION PROGRAMME IN NIGERIA

A PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED

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REG. NO: PG/M.SC/06/42145

TO

THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, FACULTY OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA. IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
MARCH, 2008

APPROVAL PAGE

This research project has been approved for the department of political science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to God Almighty for the knowledge and ability He bestowed on me to be able to carry out this research successfully. And also with so much love and appreciation to my wife: Mrs. Chioma Udogu and my parents who tried in their effort to see my dream in education come true.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I give God Almighty all the glories for the opportunity he gave me to study in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and the vigour He gave in withstanding all odds that I encountered during my days as a student of the university.

My sincere gratitude also goes to my ever gracious supervisor Professor E. Ezeani (Ph.D) for shaping my thoughts on research and its fruits. A nice and dedicated mentor.

My greatest indebtedness to my dear wife: Mrs. Chioma Udogu, my brothers: Udoka, Kenneth, Calistus and my sisters: Ugochukwu Baby, Carol and my loving parents: Mr. and Mrs. V.O. Udenigwe for all their sacrifices and financial support to make me a better and comfortable man in a near future.

Finally, are all my school-mates, classmates, soul-mates, Prof. Ikejiani Clark, A.M. Okolie (Ph.D), Olu Awofeso (Ph.D), and A. E. Ekpe (Ph.D). You all have contributed in one way or the other to ensure the realization of this research. Once again, I say thanks and God Bless.

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(POLITICAL ECONOMY)
MARCH, 2008.
ABSTRACT

The paper examines NEPAD and poverty eradication programme in Nigeria. The programme is rolled-out to reduce the harsh economic effect of poverty in Nigeria. To be a benefactor of this programme, eligibility to its fund is predicated upon having undergone any of the skill training programmes as defined by the objective of NEPAD. Particularly, the paper interrogates whether NEPAD has achieved poverty eradication in Nigeria through skill acquisition programme. Also, the paper ascertains whether NEPAD generated employment to enhance human development in Nigeria. We predicate our theoretical framework on decision making theory as advanced by Richard Snyder. This theory explains that to really understand any political – economic action, one has to analyze it from the actors. It believes that the nature and structure of International Economic Relations are products of interactions that results from decision making and that decision-making lies at the heart of all the socio-economic and political actions of the actors in Question (West and Nigeria). We used documentation method of data collection. This involves the use of secondary source of data collection and also used deductive and inductive logical method of analysis which involves a logical consistent argument that moves from general to specific or in reverse order. The paper discovers that NEPAD achieved poverty eradication programme through skill acquisition and also that NEPAD is able to solve the problem of unemployment through employment generation for human development in Nigeria and hence we recommend that government and other well meaning Nigerians should aid NEPAD’S policy through its skill acquisition programme to achieve poverty eradication. Finally, government should provide the enabling environment that will enhance private partnership with the view to stimulating employment to solve the unemployment problems in Nigeria.
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CHAPTER ONE:
INTRODUCTION

The continent of Africa has been devastated and dislocated by poverty many decades after gaining political independence. The incidence of poverty has been steadily encompassing a very large proportion of the population in the continent, and several attempts made to solve the menace have yielded merger returns. Consequently, a new initiative in the name of NEPAD, which is a plan of action to redevelop the continent of Africa, by and for Africans, emerged.

To really understand and appreciate NEPAD, it is necessary to show how the concept of NEPAD came into existence and what it actually signifies. NEPAD is the culmination of merger of the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Program (MAP) and the OMEGA plan, which was initially finalized on July 3, 2001. The idea of NEPAD started in 1999, when Presidents Tabo Mbeki (the then President of South Africa), Olusegunu Obasanjo (the then President of Nigeria), and Bonte Flika (Algeria), agreed that Africa had been reacting for too long to some of the ideas and offers of support from the rest of the World, without developing its own plan (file: //A:\what%20is%20NEPAD.htm.). These leaders believed that Africa had policies and programmes of action in the past, but due largely to some varieties of inconsistencies in the area, of timing, lack of capacity and resources, colonialism and neo-colonialism, lack of political will and to some extent, the interference of outside interest, the plans of the continent failed woefully.

MAP is a pledge, technically devised by President Wade of Senegal, for African Leaders to both independently and jointly pursue economic policies that can lead to economic development, with the aim of eradicating poverty and to actively participate in the world market economy. The concept of MAP is designed and strategized to seek in its own forms and shapes this lofty ambitions by changing the traditional relationship between Africa and the developed nations. Hence, MAP did not and never call for further foreign aid
neither for African Countries nor for marginal concessions. Instead, it called for the mobilization of technology, human skills and capital as they will help to define its grasp that has links with the creative new African leadership and a new global partnership based on joint responsibility and mutual interest. The overarching theme of MAP is for Africa and more especially African leaders to take major leadership role for the development of the continent instead of blaming others for our economic woes. MAP invites the North into a partnership with Africa, based on a more even footed relationship between the parties with mutual self interest as the driving force behind it (K file://a:\what%20is%20NEPAD.htm file://a:\what%is20%20NEPAD.htm).

Again, the OMEGA plan is a slightly different approach from the MAP. In the first instance, it sought to assess Africa’s need as compared to the developed economies in order to see areas where it needs to bridge the wide gap in order to be competitive. The plan focuses on education, health, agriculture and infrastructure as it calls for massive infusion of investment in Africa, until it reaches a point where it can harness its large human and natural resources, along with modern technology. OMEGA parted ways with MAP in some varieties of ways, particularly, in the area of funding. The plan also requests the developed economies to use their treasury bills to invest massively in African resources.

As a result of the similarity of objectives between MAP and OMEGA towards achieving Africa’s development, the two were merged in July 2001 at the African Union (AU) summit of Heads of State and Government in Lusaka, Zambia. At its upswing, NEPAD was called the New African Initiative which helped to adopt NEPAD as African’s Principle Plan for economic development, providing an integrated and comprehensive framework for Africa’s Socio-economic and political development. The African Union’s (AU) Institutional framework becomes the implementation vehicle for the plans to materialize, while NEPAD Heads of State are required to report to all annually. The plan has
been designed to work along side other African Development Initiatives and is not an attempt to replace them. NEPAD is also envisioned as being integrated into International Conferences such as the World Trade Organization, to ensure the actual integration of NEPAD into the multilateral system. This ensured that the G8 group endorsed the plans of actions of NEPAD and on July 20, 2001, the peculiarities of this plans defines that NEPAD continues the forces of MAP’s commitment at using a people centered and development plan that is based on certain democratic values. The underpinning NEPAD is the idea that Africans themselves and the resources of their continent hold the key to their development. Therefore, it calls for partnerships between the peoples of Africa, and the acceleration of continental integration. In addition, the plan also provides for a single platform for Africa to engage the rest of the world. To this end, it has links with the ideas of the Millennium Development Goals and other agreed development targets.

The problem (s) that arose that necessitated the idea of “countricization” of NEPAD Africa are basically on how to achieve these laudable economic policy objectives, the political and legal wills, and the availability of resources to put these ideas into realities. Having noticed these shortcomings on the sides of funding and implementation of NEPAD’s policy on poverty on the continent, the need arose in line with the United Nations (UN) General Assembly Resolution 57/7 and to facilitate the attainment of the policy on poverty eradication, African leaders agreed to establish NEPAD national offices with the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of NEPAD policies at country level and also to serve as a repository of information among other functions. These forces culminated in the birth of NEPAD Nigeria in the year 2002 to work with the National Planning Commission, UN system and other development partners in facilitating the implementation of NEPAD policy on poverty eradication in Nigeria. In order to ensure the operationalization of NEPAD policy on poverty eradication and as well as the implementation of the
NEPAD domestication of her policy initiatives and Action Plans at the national level, the Federal Government established NEPAD Nigeria as an institutional mechanism in the presidency solely responsible for the facilitation of the implementation of NEPAD’s policy on poverty eradication in Nigeria (NEPAD Nigeria, a Report on programmes and Activities: 2003-2007.3). Ever since the inception of NEPAD Nigeria, the Presidency has continued to provide the political will and leadership to ensure the success of the programme at national, state and local levels. It is on record that Nigeria is the first to establish/create an institutional mechanism for the grass root initiative and implementation of NEPAD policy on poverty eradication at the country level. Nigeria’s model has been commended by the international community, and is being copied by many other African countries. The study therefore, aims at eradicating poverty through various skill acquisition programmes mounted by NEPAD in Nigeria and also it defines how NEPAD is able to solve the problems of unemployment in Nigeria through employment generation for sustainable human development.

1.2 Statement of Problem:

Given the historical relationship between Nigeria and the West, it is ironic that these exploiters of labour are today preaching for economic freedom of Nigeria through privatization, commercialization and trade liberalization. Former exploiters and movers of dehumanizing policies have made the virtue of championing economic freedom for Nigeria a matter of their own affairs. This contending point came as some scholars see NEPAD as a protective suit used by West to further imperialize Nigeria. The radical scholars that see NEPAD from this perspective contend that it is deep rooted in modernization paradigm. This represents the opinions of the Marxist commentators.
Scholarship on development economies is mostly predicated on liberal and neo-liberal Paradigm and as such it defines the scholarship as derivative of the modernization thesis. These scholars see and present the nature and scope of global political economy as a natural state characterize by “haves” and the “have not” which made them to see development as a global marathon race and hence explain unequal level of development as arising from natural order of things. Within this context, they encouraged the developing economies to imbibe imitative attitudes and look unto the developed States for their economic salvation (Okolie, 2005). Basically, liberal and neo-liberal scholars tried to misdirect growth for development. They also failed in terms of the specific history and local conditions and in the long run, thrive on shallow, superficial and a historical presentation of existing realities. The scholars behind this modernization concept are Pye (1966); Parsons (1969); Rostow (1961) etc.

Based on these assertions as dictated above, most literature on modernization paradigm contends that NEPAD policy on poverty eradication leads to an increase in welfare derived from an improved allocation of domestic resources. That is why Okolie (2005), observes that NEPAS’s policy on poverty eradication is a laudable goal by recognizing a sound foundation for Nigeria’s future (Jikang Kim, Dec. 05, 2003:2; http://www.ai.org.zelelectronicomnograjh.asp?ID=15). Accordingly, Startup Josh opines that NEPAD’s policy on poverty eradication is adopted as Nigeria’s principle plan for economic development, providing an integrated,
comprehensive frame work for Nigeria’s socio-politico and economic development (file://A:/what%20nepad.htm). In the same manner, as defined above, Shittu Ahmed (2007:1) believes that NEPAD’s policy that rests on poverty eradication ensures peace and development which works towards the achievement of the 15 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As an initiative that is purely black man in origin, Shittu sees it as growth in Nigeria, which the international community sees as the main development frame work through which it can interact with Nigerians in their efforts to make the future of Nigeria change for the better.

On the part of Subramoney (2004:1), he contends that NEPAD is established to facility economic development in Nigeria. He asserts that it is one of the latest in a long line of policy frame works intended to place Nigeria on a path of growth and development. It is actually a believe and shared conviction that Nigeria leaders have a pressing duty to eradicated poverty and to place Nigeria, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable poverty eradication and sustainable human development through employment generation. Thus, NEPAD Nigeria is a vision and strategic economic policy for Nigeria renewal.

In the light of this, Nwanegbo (2005:162) sees NEPAD Nigeria as formulated against the backdrop of growing disillusionment with the now ubiquitous SAP to promote economic development. Thus, it is launched and

However, following the persistent economic crisis and under development, scholars from developing economies and Nigeria began to question the analytical utility and usefulness of the existing thought on development paradigm as the basis for understanding and explaining the dwindling economic fortunes of the Nigerian states. The structuralist presented the most factual and logical consistent critique of the modernization persuasion and so, attributed the factors of marginalization, neo-colonialism and capitalist imperialism as the root causes of under development and persistent economic crisis in Nigeria. So, they prescribed for delinking as the only radical strategy out of the dependent syndrome to which Nigeria has found itself. Such scholars that prescribed this radial paradigm are Baran, (1956); Amin, (1974); Offiong, (2001) etc. Based on this radical posture, Nwanolue (2005:17) has contend that NEPAD has remained a child of super-imposition on Nigeria by the developed west. In the same manner did the likes of Tango (2003:34) and Mocojun (2003:17) have all concurred that NEPAD is not actually free from Western imperializatrion in terms of coming to rescue Nigeria from her persistent economic crises. . They contend that NEPAD is a weakened object incapable of engineering any meaningful development in Nigeria, simply because, it has remained an instrument in the invisible hands of the Western bourgeoisie.
As a matter of fact, scholars like, Okolie (2005) Jikang Kim (2003), Shittu (2007), Subramoney (2004), and Nwanolue (2005), Tango, (2003), Mocojun (2003) Offiong (2001), have in their separate studies commented in one way or the other on the gains and dangers of NEPAD poverty eradication in Nigeria. Regrettably, though there has been increasing advocacy for policies that could be made to achieve skill acquisition in Nigeria and solve the unemployment problems for human development, yet in the existing literature reviewed, there is an existing gap in knowledge as these scholars have not yet satisfactorily analyzed how NEPAD’s skill acquisition posture contributed to poverty eradication nor have they addressed how NEPAD is able to solve the problem of unemployment through employment generation for human development that forms the essential preconditions for the country’s economic, political and socio-cultural transformation. It is this obvious Lacuna that we seek to fill in this study by posing the following research questions:

1. Has NEPAD’s skill acquisition programme contributed to poverty eradication in Nigeria?

2. Does NEPAD initiative generate employment opportunities to enhance human development in Nigeria?
1.2 Objectives of Study

In this study, the objectives are divided into two-fold. We have broad and specific objectives. Our broad objective is to examine the contributions of NEPAD to poverty eradication in Nigeria. The specific objectives are as follows:
1. To examine whether NEPAD has achieved poverty eradication through skill acquisition programme in Nigeria.
2. To ascertain whether NEPAD initiative generate employment opportunities to enhance human development in Nigeria.

1.3 Significance of Study

The devastating menace of poverty throughout the continent of Africa has become a disturbing issue. The deepening incidence of poverty in Africa which has been steadily encompassing the greater number of the population has led to the adoption of various economic reform programmes with a view to eradicating poverty. Particularly of note is that poverty has permeated deeply and enclosed over 90% of the population without any visible plan of alleviating it. As a result of this situation, the leaders of the continent initiated a plan of action that is capable of eradicating poverty in the continent. In fact, this study is justified because of the imminent need to eradicate the growing incidence of ignorance, poverty and disease in the continent of Africa. Accordingly, this study has enormous practical and theoretical significance.

At its practical level of importance, this study is of great practical utility in the sense that it will provide a systematic, coherent and holistic view of NEPAD Nigeria’s policy and its poverty eradication programmes on our economy. This study will provide the basis for policy makers in Nigeria and at the same time appreciate viable means of achieving sustainable poverty eradication through skill acquisition and human development in Nigeria. It will
equally be of good help to our leaders in their economic interaction with the developed nations, and as well as sustain her human development. At the same time, this work will provide enough insight into reality through which policy makers in Nigeria can gain indebt knowledge on the present realities of NEPAD’s policy on poverty eradication in Nigeria.

At the theoretical level, this study shall explore the horizon of the new knowledge in the area of NEPAD policy on poverty eradication. This study will add to the existing body of knowledge or literature in the field of international political economy and political science discipline at large. It will also serve as a source of data bank for future studies, and encourage more research on this emerging realities and topical issues about NEPAD. Moreover, this will help to mobilize Nigerian intellectuals, especially scholars on development studies to keep abreast with the challenges ahead in this period of globalization.

1.4 Literature Review

Our literature review shall be divided into two sub-headings to reflect the research questions posed in this study. As a result, we shall concentrate our efforts on issues relating to the following:

1. NEPAD and Poverty Eradication programmes
2. NEPAD and Employment Generation for Human Development

**NEPAD and Poverty Eradication programmes**

The field of International Economic Relations is inundated by several scholarly works on NEPAD and poverty eradication. But our major concern here is to do a review of what scholars have written on NEPAD Vis-à-vis poverty eradication as its concern Nigeria. NEPAD Nigeria is a plan to redevelop the Nigeria Nation developed by and for Nigerians as the principle plan for development thereby providing an integrated, comprehensive framework for Nigeria’s socio-economic and human development.

file://

[what%20is%20nepad.htm](file://)
According to Okolie, (2005), the inability of development plans for Nigeria as prescribed by the West to stimulate sustainable poverty eradication and combat perennial poverty, has created the platform for the introduction of the NEPAD Nigeria. He adds that NEPAD’s policy on poverty eradication forms the latest in a long line of policy frameworks intended to place Nigeria on a trajectory of economic growth and development.

In his own contribution, Nwanegbo (2005) in Obi et al (eds.) (2005:15) believes that NEPAD’s policy on poverty eradication provides another effort by the Nigerian leaders to provide a way out of the woes of Nigerian economy. This is because the policy of NEPAD on Nigeria on poverty eradication has created some hope and curiosity. Hope, because it contains certain packages that the ill fated (earlier) programmes of Nigerian integration lacked. Curiosity, in the sense that it rises the disturbing questions such as: has the Nigerian leaders changed from the old ways and are now prepared to create sincere projects for Nigerian development? Has the Nation or state of Nigerian those things needed to adequately and positively utilize all in the NEPAD Nigeria package for the development of the nation?

It is also on record that NEPAD’s policy on poverty eradication is designed to face the socio-economic blue print from the African union. It is also expected to derive from the above African Union, the problems of transformation for economic development that will help to fight poverty. This has helped to see African Union as a purely economic Union having in mind from its formative stage, the challenges of solving the socio-economic and human resource problems of African states (and Nigerian inclusive) in the face of scrunching imperialist domination (see AU constitutive act; Obi et al (eds.)2005:165).

Similarly, Akokpari (2003) sees NEPAD’s policy on poverty eradication as a development project that has the policy objective to partnership with the international creditors, as formulated against the backdrop of the growing
continental disillusionment with the now ubiquitous SAP to promote development in other to eradicate poverty. He continued by stating that NEPAD is launched and attuned towards finding a lasting solution to poverty and development challenges facing Nigeria. (OECD & ADB 2002/2004). It also defines that the policy of NEPAD Nigeria on poverty eradication, tackles the nations galaxy of crisis, including, the issues of poor economic performance, resulting from corruption, bad Governance, conflicts and insecurity and the growing marginalization of Nigeria in the comity of economic giants. This advocate continues that NEPAD Nigeria is a holistic, comprehensive, integrated strategic framework to eradicate poverty for the socio-economic development of Nigeria. It is also seen from its policy on poverty eradication as being developed by the Nigerian leaders. That is to say, it is “Nigerian owned”. Accordingly, It is a comprehensive integrated development plan that addresses key social, economic problem and political priorities in a coherent and balanced manner to achieve poverty eradication. It is said to be a commitment of Nigerian leaders to accelerate the integration of the nation into an economic hub. Hence, it is a framework for a new partnership with the rest of the world (Aredo 2003; Obi et al (eds.) 2005:163). Accordingly, Aredo (2003) has enumerated these policies of NEPAD Nigeria on poverty eradication as:

- to promote accelerated growth and economic development; increased investment from both domestic and foreign sources; halt the marginalization of Nigeria in the globalization process etc.

It is also observable that according to Nwanolue (2005) in Obi et al (eds.) (2005:227), that NEPAD Nigeria is a commitment by Nigerian leaders to get rid of poverty and to place the Nigerian nation on a path of economic growth and development. NEPAD is developed in line with the democratic ideas of Nigeria, and respect for human rights, while at the same time working to stop and
resolve situations of conflict and instability on the nation especially the Niger Delta question. He continues by making us to believe that NEPAD is a holistic, comprehensive, integrated strategic frame work for the socio-economic development of Nigeria. Its program provides the vision for Nigeria, a statement of problems facing the nation and a programme of action to solve this problems in order to reach the vision 2020. It is a plan of action that has been conceived and developed by Nigerian leaders to address key social, economic, and political priorities in a coherent and balanced manner. It forms the basis of commitment that Nigerian leaders are making to accelerate the global economy. Also, it is a framework for a new partnership with the rest of the world, and a call to the rest of the world to the partner agenda and programme of action (Obi et al, (eds.) 2005:227).

It is also on record that the first country to make NEPAD a skill acquisition programme is Nigeria. This skill acquisition programme initiative reflects the policy mechanism aimed at reaching the people. This is noticed when NMTIP, and NAPEP are introduced as part of the domestication policy of NEPAD. Based on the Policy of NEPAD on poverty eradication to fastract development in line with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 57/7, Nigerian leaders agreed to establish NEPAD Nigeria’s state offices with the sole responsibility of monitoring the implementation of NEPAD’s policy on poverty eradication at states, local government level and also to serve as a repository of information among other functions. (Nwanolue (2005) in Obi et al 2005; Kanbur, 2001; Tandon, 2002; Subramoney, 2004).

In order to ensure the operationalization of NEPAD Nigeria policy on the skill acquisition programmes initiatives and implementation of the NEPAD action plans at the state level, the Federal Government established NEPAD Nigeria through NEEDS, as an institutional mechanism in the presidency solely responsible for the facilitation of the implementation of NEPAD’s policy on

Ever since the inception of NEPAD in Nigeria, the presidency has continued to provide the political will and leadership to ensure the success of the programme at the national, state and local level. It is also on record that Nigeria is the first of the African country to establish an institutional mechanism for the skill acquisition programmes initiatives and implementation of NEPAD Nigeria policies at national, state and local government level aimed at poverty eradication. (NEPAD Nigeria: a report on programme and activities: 2003-2007;).

This skill acquisition programmes initiative and implementations are seen in the areas of NAPEP, and Agriculture. On the issue of NAPEP, Anuforo, (2005:65), believes that NEPAD’s policy on poverty eradication through NAPEP has been realized as a result of reduction in poverty rate as he believes that poverty has dropped by 5% as against its former rate at 15%. Anuforo, observes that the national coordinator of NAPEP is optimistic that the nation’s poverty rate will drop drastically through “a more significant improvement in the provision of infrastructure in the country”, as this defines that NAPEP will seize the opportunity to engage more persons gainfully”.

On agriculture, the poverty eradication policy of NEPAD in Nigeria runs through National Medium Term Investment Programme (NMTIP). Under it, it is on record that through this agency and as part of the follow-up to the implementation of the NEPAD Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) initiative, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nation has provided assistance to the federal government of Nigeria through its Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in response to the Nigeria government request to use the medium to create an enviable opportunities to eradicate poverty (NEPAD Nigeria: Report on programme and activities 2003-2007). Still on the agriculture, Vanguard,
(2005:17) asserts that, NEPAD Nigeria poverty policy on agriculture is to deliver a broad-based economic advancement to which other economic sectors, such as manufacturing, petroleum, minerals and tourism, may also contribute in significant ways, but not at the same level as agriculture. It also advances that NEPAD Nigeria’s overall vision for agriculture seeks to maximize the contribution of Nigeria’s largest economic sector to achieve self-reliance and productive economies.

From the much reviewed literature, there is an existing gap in knowledge as scholars have not yet satisfactorily analyzed how NEPAD’s skill acquisition posture contributed to poverty eradication in Nigeria. We shall at this point proceed into reviewing literature in line with our research question number two which states: “Does NEPAD initiative generate employment opportunities to enhance human development in Nigeria?”

**NEPAD and Employment Generation For Human Development**

Scanty literature exists on the issue of NEPAD’s policy on human development in Nigeria. However, Okolie (2005) asserts that NEPAD Nigeria has laudable objective but have no practical implementation mechanism, and has also failed (or never seriously intended), from it inception to gain civil society support yet, by recognizing Nigerian current status and its responsibility for development, NEPAD Nigeria appears capable of becoming a sound foundation for employment generation for future Nigerians (Jikang Kim, December 05, 2003:2 [http://www.ai.org.zalelectronicmonigraph.asp?1D=15](http://www.ai.org.zalelectronicmonigraph.asp?1D=15)).

By claiming the main requirement of the Washington Consensus macroeconomic stability, liberalization and privatization as part of a Nigerian initiative, there is no doubt that NEPAD Nigeria offers a valuable opportunity for employment generation which helps to further legitimize this human development model and its institutional arrangements and by the same token, for justifying the claims of “national ownership” of policies. It is obvious from
this point of view that employment generation that will give room for the development of human resources according to report of the vision 2010 committee, main report (1997:37) is an essential precondition for a country’s economic, political and socio-cultural transformation. This is because, human resources development is Nigeria’s most valuable assets and needs to be mobilized, developed and empowered through employment to participate fully in all programmes of socio-economic development. Human resources constitute the ultimate basis of the wealth of the nation when accompanied with employment.

On that note, Nwanolue (2005:226) agrees with the assertions made above and adds that it is in line with the public private partnership which NEPAD Nigeria has already envisioned as employment so generated shall solve the issue of unemployment in Nigeria. In his exact words, Nwanolue states:

> NEPAD Nigeria is a comprehensive, integrated strategic framework for human development (through employment) in Nigeria. The policy provides a framework for public private partnership between and among Nigerians, in the first instance, and then with the rest of the world.

Owing to this, Dogonyaro (2002:7) believes that NEPAD Nigeria is an initiative that serves as the means of consolidating the pride of Nigerian peoples through employment in their own humanity, and as a confirmation of the common humanity of the people of the world. This has defines that the Draft Charter that established the Organization carries out the general operations, implementations, and policy of NEPAD on human development and employment with the general features of accountability, responsibility and transparency. This defines that NEPAD Nigeria has the policy of eradicating widespread and severe poverty; making Nigeria ownership, responsibility, and leadership more efficient and effective; increase investment in human resources development through partnership with the industrialized economies and
multilateral organization on the bases of mutual commitments, obligations, interests, contributions and benefits (Obi et al 2005:227-228), through human resource development defined within the ambit of employment as it brings enjoyment.

Moreover, speaking in the same vein, Okolie (2005) asserts that the ingredients of development rest on issues bordering on the capacity (human resources) building of human elements (through employment generation). He continues by saying that if one weighs these factors on the scale, human factors outweigh non-human elements in the shaping of the political system and in the qualitative and quantitative transformation of the material conditions of the self. The fact remains that, he continues that the debates on the primary role of man in the socio-economic and political development of any given society have not been adequately addressed for human development in line with NEPAD Nigeria’s Vision for Nigeria. Perhaps, what we have decided to add here is that there is a very strong “debate turned axiom” on NEPAD Nigeria and human development in a given social formation like Nigeria.

This as described above has the harrows in Nigerian human resources development. Advocate believes that the history of Nigeria is a history of excruciating and suffocating poor human development (unemployment), malnourishment, stagnation, and backwardness. Majority of the citizenry is afflicted by and mired in a culture of grinding penury occasioned largely by reckless, rapacious and unabashed misappropriation and misuse of public wealth (Okolie, 2005).

Accordingly, Subramoney (2004:1) demonstrated it by what he calls recurrent decimal of underdevelopment, political instability and grinding poverty due to unemployment. In his own exact words, he asserts:

> The general picture of human resources in Nigeria is one of underdevelopment, political instability, economic volatility and pervasive poverty that result from unemployment.
According to him, the grinding poverty on human development due largely to unemployment is reflected in low life expectancy of only 47 years. Worse still, as he avers, Global indicators paint a picture of disease, poverty, famine, conflict, instability, bad leadership etc, to human under development in Nigeria. In a related development, Subramoney (2004:1) remarks that poverty due to unemployment is endemic in any nation with estimates of some 65% of its people living on less than one dollar a day. He concludes that the grinding penury is reflected in low life expectancy in human resources investment and decline contribution of Nigeria to global trade.

Worse still, according to CBN Annual Report and statement of Account (2004:106), it asserts that the above scenario is more disturbing in Nigeria compared to any other country in Africa where over 65% of the people live in abject poverty, malnourishment that resulted in the level of people unemployed etc. He equally agrees that Nigeria is again mired in crippling under development and dependency of human resources. The statistics shows that poor human development as a result of unemployment average 54.4% in 2003/04; adult literacy rate at 57%, life expectancy at birth stabilizes at 54%; and population growth rate of 20%, the material conditions of the citizenry depreciated.

The comet (2004:34) sees NEPAD Nigeria as programmes for Nigeria’s socio-economic development that has it vocal point of view in terms of partnership with the public private sector for human resource development(employment).

Vanguard (2005:19) sees NEPAD Nigeria as a vehicle that will bring about the integration of both political leadership of Nigeria as well as the business leadership and also as a partnership in its total outlook as it forms the fulcrum of its policy. It also believes that as defines by its objectives right from
its inception, the private sector has been cultivated and recognized as a strategic partnership in the enterprise.

Nwanolue (2005), Aredo (2003), believe that successive political leadership in Nigeria had in the time past articulated and pursued development strategies aimed at reversing the dwindling economic and human resource fortunes of the nation. However, none of these policy prescriptions have yielded the much needed desired result at generating employment for poverty eradication. This strategies range from the Lagos plan of Action 1980, SAP 1986 to vision 2010 initiative. In fact, the failure of the above mentioned stimulant to generate employment aimed at human development to stimulate development and combat perennial poverty, created according to them the platform for NEPAD Nigeria. They see it as part of the long line of policy frame work intended to place Nigeria on a trajectory of human development as we believed.

From the literature so far reviewed, it is observable that there is still an existing gap in knowledge as the scholars have failed to satisfactorily and precisely placed much emphasis on how NEPAD is able to solve the problem of unemployment through employment generation opportunities to sustain human development. The characteristics of NEPAD Nigeria’s employment and human development postures from the scholars are likened to an Emperor without clothes. It is based on this existing gap in knowledge that necessitated this research, so as to fill this obvious gap in knowledge.

So far, we have been reviewing literature within the context of our research questions. Generally, there is an avalanche of scholarly work in this regard and the efforts of scholars are commendable. Particularly of note is that scholars who ventured into the incidence of poverty have adduced that developing economies should imbibe imitative attitudes towards the developed states (economies) for their economic salvation; and after many decades of this imitative attitude, the incidence of poverty appears to be unabated. More so,
most literature failed to appreciate the specificity of the local condition in Nigeria, and as a result have not successfully proffered workable solution to the growing incidence of poverty. It has also been observed that NEPAD’s policy on poverty eradication is a laudable programme by recognizing Nigeria’s current status as one of the poorest country in the world and its responsibility for development, yet, the policy appears to be recycling the trend of poverty.

However, the policy of NEPAD towards enhancing the eradication of poverty in Nigeria through skill acquisition has not received the attention it deserves. The extent to which the policy has sustained the eradication of poverty deserves very serious scholarly attention. But very important is that the impact of NEPAD’s policy on poverty eradication through sustainable skill acquisition and agricultural programmes deserve a critical re-assessment to ascertain whether the programme should be continued or jettisoned into the dustbin of history like SAP. NEPAD’s objectives are essentially to eradicate extreme poverty and to place Nigeria on the path of sustainable poverty eradication and human development.

The process of employment generation to sustain human development always begins with the development of the productive forces, particularly, the labour process which deserves the most serious interrogation. This implies the capacity of the policy to develop human resource through employment that can usher in genuine development. To be sure, scholars have not satisfactorily addressed the issues relating to NEPAD’s policy on employment generation for the development of human resource, and this deserves more attention.
1.5. Theoretical Framework

In this study, we shall adopt as our theoretical framework of analysis the Decision-Making Theory.

It is obvious that the nature and structure of International Economic Relations are products of interactions that resulted in decision-making. This assumption is predicated on the premise that whichever way the decision comes from, it affects directly on the society in question. This is the more reason why decision-making theory is used for this analysis. According to the proponent (Synder), he believes that to understand any form of political-economic actions, one has to analyze them from the position of the actors (see Udenigwe, 2007:152). Accordingly, Richard C. Snyder observes that decision-making lies at the heart of all the political-economic actions and therefore it alone can make provisions for the common focus under which we can bring together these actors, situations and all the processes for the aim of analysis (Varma, 1975). The contentious issue is that one has to know the very person or those people who make the laws or take decisions that result in the actions taken by the people concerned, as well as examine those interaction and the intellectual factors that influences the decision-makers in taken certain categorized decisions as it affects the concerned society either politically, socially or economically (Udenigwe, 2007:152). On the needs to really understand Snyder’s point of view as to the meaning of categorization of issues or factors in decision-making, as it concern our subject matter of analysis, Udenigwe, (2007:153), points out those forces as attuned by Snyder that can mar or make decisions to be taken. These categories are external setting, internal setting, and the decision-making processes.

In fact, Snyder has actually used this decision making theory to explain the forces behind the formation of NEPAD, its objectives and programmes of action which has necessitated this study. It is evidenced that NEPAD is a culmination of decisions externally originated from the North with the
intentions of monitoring development and strategic progress in Nigeria. It is also a decision reached after the merger of the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme (MAP) and the OMEGA plan which was finalized on July 3,2001 (Josh startup: file://a://what%20is%20NEPAD.htm.) It is also an internally decision setting according to Snyder cited in Udenigwe (2007:152/3), by the Nigerian leaders who recognized the overlap between MAP and OMEGA PLAN as they merged them as Nigeria’s principle plan for development, providing an integrated, comprehensive framework for Nigeria’s socio-economic development. In the area of decision-making processes, this defines all those forces which the Nigerian leaders had taken into considerations before they took the decisions to form NEPAD Nigeria as economic reaction against western imperialism. This involves the Breton woods economic system that was based on the concept of colonialism. Put differently it existed in the manner of master- servant relationship. This explains why during the colonial era, the colonies merely served as the sources of raw materials for the developed countries and as market for their manufactured goods. At independence, Nigeria was not under any illusion that political independence was incomplete and indeed meaningless unless matched with attempts on industrial and economic development. Thus, it attempted to vigorously confront underdevelopment through the application of bourgeois-oriented strategies. It is regrettable that the adopted strategies for economic development instead of fostering development deepened and aggravated the problems they were meant to address.

Instability in the prices of primary products at the world market constitutes another cause for the decisions for NEPAD as economic reaction against western imperialism. The deleterious effect of this price fluctuation is that it drastically reduced foreign exchange earning for Nigeria. Under this circumstance, trade instead of enhancing the development of less developed countries, rather complicated the woes. The newly emergent independent country like Nigeria had no alternative than to press for a restructuring of the
world economy, particularly the amendment of the rules guiding the operation of IMF and GATT.

Other causes are the breakdown in 1971 of the international system based on the Breton woods Agreement of 1944, the urgent need to change the unjust and inequitable distribution of global wealth. Having made their decisions for moratorium of debt repayment, free transfer of technology and investment capital, lower tariffs and a minimum price for their goods, and a greater control over multinational corporations in Nigeria, a decision-making process was quickly taken to prevent the marginalization of Nigeria products in world market, international economic relations and having its values restored in terms of competitive free market system (Okereke & Ekpe 2002, Sondermann, et al 1979:289).

The motivational factors are composed of the interest which the officials (the West and Nigeria) acquire in the process of making-decision on how the structure of the world economy shall be. Accordingly, it has become imperative that according to Anifowose and Ememue. (1999), cited in Udenigwe (2007:153), that the combined effort of impacting positivism of this factors above actually influences both the decision-makers and their actions.

The theory is not only relevant to our analysis but enhances the appreciation of collective decision-making processes among states and actors, and facilitate the deep understanding of the partners of maneuvering and games in International Economic Relations between the west and the rest of us (Anifowose and Enemuo 2002:25).

Finally, the decision-making theory has affected the importance of decision-making processes in the analysis of both external and internal setting in decision-making processes by the policy makers.
1.6 Hypotheses:

The following hypotheses were explored:

1. NEPAD has achieved poverty eradication through skill acquisition programme in Nigeria.
2. NEPAD initiative generates employment opportunities to enhance human development in Nigeria.

1.7 Method of Data Collection and Analysis

The method of data collection to be used in this study is the documentation design. This involves the use of secondary source of data collection which includes books, journals, magazines, government official documents, conference papers, internet materials etc.

In an attempt to explore our hypotheses, we shall employ the use of deductive or inductive logical method of analysis. This involves a logically consistent argument that either moves from general to specific or in reverse order. More so, we shall adopt content analysis as part of our method of analysis. This will involves reading meaning into available documents with a view to interpreting our data in such a way that it will give new insights to the understanding of the relationships between our independent and dependent variables, and hence an understanding of the resource curse thesis.
CHAPTER TWO
NEPAD: ORIGIN, OBJECTIVES AND THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

2.1 Introduction:

Recent decades have witnessed rapid growth in economic alignment of regions, economic co-operations and integrations to which most states attempt at coming together for economic identity and relevance. This growth has been argued in some quarters to have been drive by the ever fast rise in International Economic Configurations and Cooperation to which non-member state is left in total economic isolation. And since globalization entails inter dependence and cooperation, no state likes to be left out in this game (economic integrations).

The same idea of economic integration is likened to the concept of NEPAD. It defines an economic reaction against the west and its imperialistic sentiment. Like its sisters in other regions like: Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Caribbean Economic Community (CARICOM), European Economic Community (EEC), and South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement (SPARTECA), (Ezeanyika and Oruebor 2001:X), NEPAD came as a rescue mission to the African Economy and to also perform those functions to which it believes other regional economic ties does to its respective regions. Although, NEPAD has slight different economic agenda for African States but at the same time within the Milieu of economic assistance.

What we have decided in this chapter is to trace the origin of NEPAD as well explore the objectives and organizational structure. This is because NEPAD has come to address this situation. This is so because NEPAD has been domesticated to address the major problem (s) that affects each countries of Africa.
2.2 The Origin of NEPAD:

The democratic governance in Nigeria has witnessed a tremendous and considerable changes and accomplishment in the performance of the various Ministries, Agencies and extra Ministerial Departments under it. NEPAD Nigeria is a part of this success story of democratic governance as a result of its achievements especially in the area of poverty eradication in Nigeria and in the execution of its programmes and activities since its inception in 2003.

The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) is a strategic frame work, holistic and an integrated economic development programmes for Africa’s renewal. Accordingly, it originated from a mandate given to five initiating Heads of State of Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa by the then Organization of the Africa Unity (OAU) now African Union (AU) to come up with an Integrated Socio- economic development frame work for Africa. African leaders then and now demonstrated great commitment at the 37th summit of OAU in Lusaka, July, 2001, where NEPAD frame work was adopted (NEPAD Nigeria (2003/07, Report on Programmes and Activities). It was officially given its name as a New Partnership for Africa’s Development on October 23, 2001 in Abuja, Nigeria having been adopted in Lusaka, July 2001 (Ravi Kanbur 2001:2). The name of the initiative, hitherto called the New African Initiative (NAI) was changed to NEPAD embodying the philosophy, objectives and its Organizational structures.

It is designed to address key social, economic, environmental and political priorities as well as other current challenges facing the African continent. Some of these include issues such as the escalating poverty levels, under development, and the continued marginalization of Africa at the global level. NEPAD policies and priorities have now become the internationally approved framework for Africa’s development addressing corruption, poor governance and inefficient delivery of public goods and services to the citizens. The objectives of NEPAD are to eradicate poverty and also to place African
countries on the path of sustainable economic growth and development (Josh Startup file://A\what%20is%20NEPAD.htm). In NEPAD, Nigeria used the unique opportunity to improve in democratic governance which helped to attract FDI. In line with the United Nations (UN) General Assembly Resolution 57/7 and to facilitate the attainment of the objective of the New African initiative, African leaders agreed and established NEPAD national offices with responsibility for monitoring the implementation of NEPAD programmes at country level that serves as the repository of Information among other functions. This single act from its “countricization” gave birth to the establishment of NEPAD Nigeria in the year 2002 to work with the National Planning Commission, UN system and other development partners in facilitating the implementation of NEPAD programmes and actions plans in Nigeria.

2.3 The Objectives of NEPAD:

When the concept of NEPAD was first launched as a result of the merger of MAP and OMEGA plan on July 3, 2001, some critics of NEPAD linked it to liberal and neo-liberal paradigm and never see anything good coming out from NEPAD. Although, some of the arguments have some element of truth there but not absolute, this is because the objectives of NEPAD have already outweighed those misconceptions. The negative impressions about NEPAD have it that it defines an avenue to which the West is able to monitor the economy of Nigeria. They also believe that it is deep rooted in modernization paradigm, and that NEPAD will fail in Nigeria because “it offers nothing ‘new’, and is just another plan destined to be mired in Nigeria’s old problems of corruption and selfish interest”. (Startup file://A:\what%20is%20NEPAD.htm). At a multi-stake holder dialogue held in the Republic of South Africa in October, 2004, the consensus negative impression about NEPAD’s objectives was nothing to write home about. The architects of NEPAD are also mired into these negative impressions. They
opined that NEPAD’s objective is primarily another talk shop that will yield nothing. President Wade of Senegal says that the objectives of NEPAD will definitely achieve nothing. In the same vein, Richard Pithouse of the University of Natal has also gone further to argue that NEPAD’s objective has just opens Nigeria up for further exploitation without redress from outsiders. (in startup file://A:\what%20is%20NEPAD.htm).

But despite this barrage of criticisms against the objectives of NEPAD in Nigeria, we are consoled by the supports from the foreign governments especially from the Canadian government that looked at the objectives of NEPAD and maintains that it has accomplished an important goal. Because of their overt support, the Canadian government had to dole-out $ 500 million to support NEPAD’s efforts. Notwithstanding this, the Canadian government avers:

that NEPAD’s objectives has provided an organizational framework for the United Nations and other International Community to work for; stopped the erosion in support of Nigeria from its development partners, and incorporated peer-review and mutual accountability as important elements in the decision making of Nigerian government.

We, are also joined by the consolatory praises from the IMF’s Managing Direction, Mr. Horst Kohler who expressed both his own appreciation and that of the fund and avers that the partnership posture that comes out of the objectives of NEPAD and its peer review mechanism will be a critical element to access NEPAD’s objectives towards poverty eradication. In the same way did Mr. Sachs (the Special Adviser to Former UN secretary-General Kofi Annan) as he praises the Nigerian Government for it leadership qualities and also believes that it will definitely help Nigeria to achieve it Millennium Development Goals Initiatives through poverty eradication.
These countless praises and encouragement came as a result of the fact that NEPAD is a regional initiative, and has its vocal objective on poverty eradication which are made abundantly clear in the opening line of the NEPAD document which reads:

The new initiative is a pledge by Nigerian leaders based on their common vision and a firm and shared conviction that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and place their nation, both individually and collectively, on a path of economic growth and development, and at the sometime to participate actively in the world economy and body politics. (Ravi Kanbur (2001:1) http://www.people.cornell.edu/pages/sk145sk145@cornell.edu).

Furthermore, the NEPAD’s objectives cannot be over emphasized. This is because the objectives of NEPAD, according to Loxley, (2003:19) towards poverty are:

- Poverty eradication
- Economic development
- Demarginalization of Nigeria in the globalization process

(NEPAD, 2001:16) and it is aimed for a real GDP growth rate in excess of 7% per annum, on average over the next fifteen years. In addition, it aims to meet the agreed International Development Goals (IDGs) which are: reducing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by a half between 1990 and 2015; 100% primary school enrolment by primary and secondary enrolment by 2005; eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary school enrolment by 2005; reducing infant and child mortality.

The objectives of NEPAD have also been reflected ever since it has been incorporated in its contents that Nigeria has been reacting for too long to the ideas and offers of support from the west without developing its own plans. This reaction reflects in the objectives of NEPAD as it is spelt out to close the gap of poverty eradication in Nigeria. Owing to that, the NEPAD’s objectives according to Aredo (2003), define a pledge for Nigerian leaders to both independently and jointly pursue a path for sustainable poverty eradication to
enable them participate in the world economy. It sought to achieve this objective by changing the traditional relationship between Nigeria and the developed nations. The policy objectives call for the mobilization of technology, human skills and capital—all of which the policy has combined with the creative new Nigerian leadership, and a new global partnership on joint responsibility and interest. We also believe that by this joint responsibility, through its objective, it has created the platform for the calls for the Nigerians especially their leaders to take-up more leadership responsibility for the overall development of the nation which we believe must surely help to eradicate poverty that will ensure sustainable poverty eradication, instead of blaming the west every time for our economic woes.

The NEPAD objectives seek to assess Nigeria’s need as compared to the developed economies in line with her vision 2020 in order to see area where it needs to bridge the gap of poverty in Nigeria, in order to be competitive. It also focuses on education, health, and agriculture in Nigeria until it will come to a point where it can harness its large human and natural resources along with modern technology. (startup2000:1. file:/A:\what%20is%20NEPAD. him). Moreover, the objective of NEPAD has advised many Nigerians with large junk of financial reserves invested in western markets to lend these resources instead to Nigerians. It asked the developed economies to use their treasury bills to invest in the Nigerian resources. This is because Nigerian leaders recognized the fact that debt relief has been one of the critical aspects to Nigeria’s development plans as this necessitated that NEPAD objective is adopted as Nigeria’s principle plan for development as it provides the integrated and comprehensive framework for Nigeria to achieve poverty eradication policy through skill acquisition, agriculture and human development for socio-economic development that will aid sustainable poverty eradication in Nigeria.

Moreover, the NEPAD objective have also captured the very academic acumen of Obi et al (2005: 165), as they see it as been postulated to reflect a
holistic, comprehensive, and integral strategic framework for the socio-economic development of Nigeria. In the opinion of Aredo (2003), it defines a commitment of Nigerian leaders to accelerate the integration of the Nation into the Global economy as this will surely define its framework for sustainable new partnership with the rest of the world which in turn will help to eradicate poverty in Nigeria. Accordingly, the objectives of NEPAD as stated in Obi et al (2005:163), rest on:

- to promote accelerated growth and development;
- eradicate poverty; halt the marginalization of Nigeria in the globalization process; envisaged an average GDP growth rate of over 7 percent per annum over a period of 15 years; increased investment from both domestic and foreign sources.

In the opinion of Obasanjo, (2004:44), NEPAD’ objective that defines it on poverty eradication is an articulated reform agenda designed to make life better for all Nigerians. This NEPAD’s objective agenda on poverty eradication has been integrated in the agenda of NEEDS which helps to define the grand strategy to reposition Nigeria for sustainable poverty eradication, stability, growth and prosperity that must surely help us to eradicate poverty in Nigeria. (Punch, 2004:44, Friday, October).

2.4 NEPAD and its Organizational Structures:

NEPAD is “countricized” to give values to its organizational and implementation mechanism its essence. It is on record that part of NEPAD’s problems is on how to achieve its laudable policies and since African member states especially from the low-income earners are suspicions of the growing influences of Nigeria, Republic of South Africa, Algeria etc., this fear is reduced by the idea that NEPAD should be “countricized”. Part of the “countricization” of NEPAD is the birth of NEPAD Nigeria and as a
complement to its poverty eradication posture, NEPAD Nigeria initiative, rest on NEEDS, SEEDS and LEEDS.

Moreover the approved organizational structure of NEPAD was on 3 August 2002, by the then President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo who directed that a comprehensive organizational structure and staff requirement for NEPAD Nigeria be worked-out. In other to effectively take-off at the country level and to carry out its mandate, NEPAD Nigeria initiated a process for the development of a viable, implementation mechanism and practical organizational structure for its establishment based on the Mr. President’s directive, and also in absolute conformity with the NEPAD/UN programme clusters (NEPAD Nigeria, 2003/07; Report on programme and activities; Kanbur, 2001:2-3). Presentations in this regard were made at various meetings and to various organizations, at national and international levels. The initiative received a lot of commendations from various countries and organizations within and outside Nigeria, including the NEPAD continental secretariat.

In furtherance of this initiative, series of meetings and consultations were held with the management service office in the office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation. Consequently, a consultative team from the management service office was constituted to study NEPAD programmes and objectives and to work out an organizational structure for the effective implementation of NEPAD programmes in Nigeria. In line with the recommendations of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation, Mr. President then approved the following organizational structure for NEPAD Nigeria:

→ The position of the Director-General as the Chief Executive of NEPAD Nigeria who is also the Senior Special Assistant to the president on NEPAD;
→ The structuring of NEPAD Nigeria into three department and three Units as:
  • Administration and finance department;
  • Planning, monitory and evaluation department;
  • Programme development and implementation
- Department;
- Legal unit;
- Audit unit and
- Media and outreach unit
- A self-accounting status of NEPAD Nigeria, and
- The relocation of NEPAD Nigeria office to a befitting and more accessible location.

According to Kanbur, (2001:2-3), NEPAD has the following organizational structures aimed at or used to achieve all its laudable objectives. These are:

1. Conditions for Sustainable Development: Peace, Security, Democracy and Political governance; Economic and Corporate Governance; Sub-regional and Regional Approaches to Development.
2. Sectoral priorities: Infrastructure, Human Resource Development, Agriculture, Environment, Culture, Science and Technology platforms

Therefore, effective implementation of the objectives and programmes of NEPAD is the key to the success of NEPAD. Implementation of policy and programme of NEPAD defines, the process, institutional frame work, and instruments for translating the aspirations, goals, and programmes into action for concrete result (NEEDS 2004: XXI). Critical to the successful implementation is an effective institutional Frame work, particularly a public service dedicated to excellence and supportive of reforms. Equally, significant is adequate infrastructure and an enabling environment for private investment. As a necessary complement to NEEDS, state governments have been directed to develop the State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (SEEDS) while the various local governments are also given the same directions to develop the Medium-Term Development Programmes, (LEEDS) specifying
the benchmarks, targets, deliverables, timelines, and the implementation guides. NEEDS recognizes that effective local level planning is critical to reduce inefficient in resource allocation and to ensure integrated rural development and poverty eradication.

The question is how is NEPAD’s organizational structures and implementation mechanisms are carried out to ensure efficacy and sustainability for proper poverty eradication. The methods used for the full implementation of NEPAD policies and programmes for sustainable poverty eradication are:

- **Institutional Framework:** The institutional frame work for implementing NEPAD recognizes the values of coordination among the federal government (NEEDS), the states (SEEDS), and local government levels for achieving the national development goals. State governments (through the national economic planning) constitute the integral part of the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation framework. The system is cohesive and provides for interactions with all the stakeholders. At the apex are the President, the Vice-president and the National Assembly. The Federal Executive Council and National Economic Council consider all matters pertaining to implementing NEEDS and SEEDS, presenting periodic reports to the resident and the National Assembly.

- Another institutional Framework that is crucial for the implementation of NEEDS policies and programmes is the Independent Monitoring Committee. The committee-chaired by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and composed of government officials, representatives of the private sector, the press and civil society – monitors and evaluates the implementations of NEEDS and SEEDS policies and projects. It informs the National Assembly of its findings and reports to the President and the National Economic Council for appropriate action. The committee posts quarterly reports on performance on the Nigerian economy web site (www.Nigerianeconomy.cpm). A summary of the finding will also be
disseminated to the Nigerian people, through print and electronic media. Members of the National Economic Council will use the result of the monitoring and evaluation to fine-tune the implementation in their states. The reports of the National Economic Council review will also be forwarded to the National Assembly and the President.

Other institutional framework for the implementation of NEPA’s policies is the secretariat of NEEDS which is located at the National Planning Commission that has the responsibility of coordinating the implementation framework.

Others too include the Joint Planning Board, the National Council on Development Planning, and the National Economic Council (NEEDS 2004: xxi-xxiii).

Another implementation method used by NEPAD for effective implementation of its policies and programmes is the use of new forms of coordination and partnership. Since the old forms are out of date and ineffective as it leads us into several economic crises including debt burden, NEEDS envisions several new forms of coordination and partnership from matching grants, to a peer review mechanism and public private partnerships.

Matching grants scheme: This is done through the establishment of an adhoc committee. This committee is set up to take a census of federal government projects in the states of the federation and to also determine which can be passed on to communities, local governments, or states or sold outright. This committee also identifies the areas for more direct intervention by the federal government and areas for facilitation or conciliation and application of matching grants. Coordination among the ties of government is very important to avoid the duplication and waste in the delivery of services. Under the proposed financing scheme, the federal government will provide
the matching grants to states and local governments for programmes that are national priorities but are best handled at the states or local levels.

Peer review mechanism and public-private partnership: A peer review mechanism has been designed at all levels of implementation- within ministries and agencies, among ministries and agencies at the federal, on the one hand and the private sector and civil society organizations on the other, and within the framework of aid coordination. NEEDS also intends, to mainstream public private partnership at all the levels of government for interaction with the private sector associations, NGOs, and Civil society organizations.
TABLE 1: The Organizational/Implementation Structure of NEPAD NIGERIA:

- National Assembly
- Federal Executive Council
- National Economic Council
- Independent Monitoring Committee
- Public Private Partnership (peer review mechanism), National Council on Development Planning/Joint Planning Board, SEEDS, labour, private sector and civil society.
- Ministry of Finance and Central Bank
- National Planning Commission/NEEDS Secretariat
- Line Ministries and Public Enterprises
- Service Delivery Unit
- Private Sector Donor Community, Others

Source: NEEDS, 2004: XXII
Another form for this effective implementation is through restructuring the national statistical system. NEEDS has come and recognizes that Nigeria’s national statistical system for development is weak. The one used is governed by the 1957 statistics act, which is obsolete. Timely and reliable statistics are critical for effective plan, monitoring, and evaluation. A new master plan has been developed for the national statistics system to effect the strategies of poverty eradication for sustainability and development, and the government has increased the funding of the federal office of statistics for more effective and reliable actions (NEEDS 2004:Xxiii).

Finally, the financial plan: NEEDS targets minimum annual GDP growth rates of 5 percent in 2004, 6 percent in 2005, and 2006 and 7 percent in 2007. While ambitious, it is the minimum needed to achieve adequate per capita income and improve welfare. To finance the programme, the government increases the efficiency of resources used by curbing wasteful expenditures (by plugging all leakages in public expenditure and sources of revenue and reforming institution), selling assets, reforming the tax system, increased the efficiency of resources used, mobilizing domestic savings and attracting foreign direct investment and overseas development assistance. It also seeks debt relief from the creditors.
CHAPTER THREE
NEPAD AND POVERTY ERADICATION

3.1 Introduction:

The problems that arose that made the idea of “countricization” of NEPAD a basic concept is basically on how to achieve its laudable policy of making NEPAD’s programme to rest on NMTIP; policies for sustainable poverty eradication; policies for sustainable human development; how to mobilize fund for skill acquisition under NAPEP; the political and legal wills and availability of resources to put these ideas into realities made and created the need to countricize NEPAD for effective sustainable poverty eradication. Having noticed this shortcomings on the sides of funding and implementation of NEPAD’S plans of action on the nation, the need arose in line with the United Nation General Assembly Resolution 57/7 and to facilitate the attainment of NEPAD and poverty eradication programmes, Nigerian leaders agreed to establish NEPAD national offices at the states, and local governments with the sole responsibility of monitoring the level of poverty at the states and local government levels and also serves as a repository of information among other functions. This force culminated in the birth of NEPAD Nigeria in the year 2002 to work with the National Planning Commission, UN system and other development partners in facilitating the record of the incidence of poverty and NEPAD’s policies and action plans in Nigeria especially one on NEPAD and poverty eradication policy. In order to ensure the operationalization of NEPAD policies and as well as the poverty eradication postures and the implementation of NEPAD action plans at the state level, the federal government established NEPAD’s Institutional Mechanism in the Presidency solely responsible for the facilitation of the implementation of the NEPAD policy in Nigeria.

Ever since the inception of NEPAD in Nigeria, the Presidency has continued to provide the political will and leadership to ensure the success of the programme at the national level as well as at the state and local government
levels. It is also on record that Nigeria is the first African country to establish an institutional mechanism for the poverty eradication policy at the state and local government’s levels in Nigeria. Nigeria’s model has actually been copied and commended by the International Community, as is being imitated by many other African states.

What we are going to do here is to explain and establish NEPAD’s and poverty eradication initiative postures it has. However, we shall also attempt discussing this under such sub-headings like: incidence of poverty in Nigeria, NEPAD and poverty eradication through skill acquisition; and NEPAD’s policy programme on poverty eradication through agriculture.

3.2 The Incidence of Poverty in Nigeria:

Fundamentally, the history of Nigeria is the history of excruciating and suffocating incidence of poverty, malnourishment, stagnation and backwardness. It is on record that most of her citizens are afflicted by and are mired in a culture of grinding penury that are necessitated by reckless rapacious and unabashed misappropriation and misuse of public fund. As supported by Subramoney (2004:1)

the general picture of Nigeria is one of under development resulting from the chronic incidence of poverty, political instability, economic volatility and pervasive penury which has reflected in the low life expectancy of only 47 years. Worst still, global indicators have painted the picture of disease, poverty, famine (hunger), conflicts, instability and bad leadership, as the major causes of poverty in Nigeria.

This incidence of poverty is designed to put an end to the debate on whether NEPAD policy has in any form shown on poverty eradication. This is because the critics of NEPAD and her policy at eradicating poverty never see anything good in NEPAD let alone her objectives on poverty eradication. This pessimistic views are carried out by the reactions from the “never do well”
posture against NEPAD policy at poverty eradication. This is made known by Komolafe (2006:37) that:

we have been left out. Our present and future is being dictated by forces outside Nigeria. This is because the economic dosage of the World Bank/IMF and the W.T.O. taken by the successive Nigerian leaders have created grave Socio-economic problems in Nigeria which has resulted in incidence of perpetual poverty especially if one weights the activities of SAP.

In the same vein, the incidence of poverty is again reinforced by Fredrich Ebert Stifting in Komolafe (2006:37) where he links it with the plights of workers. According to him, the plight of casual workers in Nigeria is compounded by the fact that they do not have union that sees and hears their complaint against exploitations by their masters. He further opines that since they cannot put themselves into union, the idea of improving their welfares, and lots etc., for better is mired and as one will envisage, will lead to abject poverty since the casual worker cannot muscle-up enough finance to establish any business of his choice. He ends up becoming a perpetual slave to his “Shylock” master. The consequence (s) of this state of affairs for this casual worker is recycling of poverty since he has no economic muscle, he will be suffering from malnutrition, poor hygiene, poor education for his children etc. This positions above reflect the testimony of neo-liberalism that Nigeria is where the rich in the name of privatization have bought off public enterprise for private use. Since he bought it in this way, the possibility of exploitation without redress is there since the capitalist pays only to maximize profit at the negative detriment to the worker whose labour is being sapped.

The incidence of poverty has not yet gone awry. Subramoney (2004:1) remarks that the poverty level in the country is so endemic with an estimate of some 65% of its people (population) living on less than one dollar a day. He states that the grinding poverty is reflected in low life expectancy and decline
contribution of Nigeria to global trade. The picture as seen above is more disturbing as over 55% of the population lives in abject poverty. Nigeria is also notorious as it has the share of been mired in crippling underdevelopment and dependence resulting from the incidences of poverty. With this, it is on record that the average incidence of poverty in Nigeria reflects about 54.4% in 2003/2004, adult literacy rate of 57%, life expectancy at birth stabilizing at 54%, and population growth rate of 28%, the material conditions of the citizenry is depreciating (CBN Annual Report and statement of account, 2004:106).

Moreover, successive political leaders in Nigeria had in the past articulated and pursued development strategies aimed at reversing the dwindling economic and material fortune of her citizens that necessitated poverty. However, none of these yielded the much cherished result. These strategies, adopted to revamp our ailing economics for sustainable poverty eradication ranged from open door policy, import substitution strategy, of 1962, indigenization policy of 1972, Lagos plan of Action 1980 to structural Adjustment Programme 1986. In addition to as has been discussed above, developing economy like Nigeria is mired in a serious and deepening development crises resulting from the incidence of poverty. Accordingly, Okolie cited in Obi et al (2005:132) supported it. He avers that “this poverty is generally rooted in faulty, ill-informed, and unrealistic strategies, which in its own is basically alien, superficial and perfunctory. This mired economic crisis that resulted in poverty stated right from the independence till date to which successive political leaders of Nigeria has been entangled with the task of implementing such defective and foisted development initiatives as they truncate from one development fad to another with very minimal success. Nigerian state has always been engaged in unrealistic development strategies [as most of them have been enlisted above], which in themselves helped to
reproduce un-development, deepens dependency, upgrade poverty and vitiates all efforts at sustainable poverty eradication in Nigeria.

Table 2 defines the incidence of poverty in Nigeria, selected years.

(Percentage of poor people in total population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>65.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geopolitical</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zones</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>54.0</td>
<td>70.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td>52.1</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>77.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North central</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>50.8</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>64.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>41.0</td>
<td>53.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>60.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South/central</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>40.8</td>
<td>58.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sector</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>37.8</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>58.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>69.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender of head of household</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of household:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-20 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 20 people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Education of head of household:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>46.4</td>
<td>72.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>54.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>52.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post secondary</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>49.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age of head of household:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>37.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>33.4</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>52.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>64.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>49.7</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>71.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>39.7</td>
<td>55.7</td>
<td>48.2</td>
<td>69.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older than 65</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>49.1</td>
<td>49.6</td>
<td>68.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


As a synergy to the above, sustainable poverty eradication has remained largely illusive as illiteracy, poverty level, unemployment, malnutrition, and inflationary rate, have continued to show unfavourable records. Accordingly, the 2002 Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) report has never being favourable as indication shows that the country’s misery index (MI), in poverty level has worsened. It is on record that the growing incidence and the dynamics of poverty in Nigeria have stratified and polarized the Nigeria society between the haves and the have-nots, between the north and south, between the educated and the uneducated. It goes along way to also express that poor parents beget poor children, creating a kind of dynasty of re-circling abject poverty in the Nigerian society. The resulting tension and the social conflict, that follows have eroded the fabric that held the Nigeria society together. The challenges as have posed is not only to reform the economy in order to boast poverty eradication through skill acquisition and development but also to empower the people as the means
of revitalizing the weakened social pillar. Doing so has called for a human right approach to poverty eradication planning that places the people at the centre of sustainable development efforts. The much more added value provided by this comprehensive approach (skill acquisition and programmes through agriculture) is that the norms and values enshrined in it have the potential to empower the poor and less privileged in our society. The report has it that the economic position of Nigeria has taken a turn for the worse ever since the 1999. While it is still contending with this issue, literacy and life expectancy are also stagnant, the former remains at 75% of adult Nigerians, while the latter stubbornly refuses to move beyond 54 years (Obi et al, 2005:133). Worse still, the exchange rate which stood at ₦88 &1 as at 1999, now hovers around ₦147 $1 which represents 44% devaluation for an import-dependent economy. This becomes necessary because it is now obvious that effective poverty eradication is not possible by mere wishes since poverty eradication is one of the most difficult challenges facing the Nigerian nation and its people and the greatest obstacle to pursue sustainable socio-economic growth and development. This content above has the support of NEEDS, (2004:22).
Table 3: Dimensions of poverty in Nigeria from 1995-2001. (Income, services, health, clean water, empowerment etc. are used).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poverty dimension and indicators</th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population below US$ 1 per day (%)</td>
<td>70.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (%)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Schooling</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school enrolment (female %)</td>
<td>47.8</td>
<td>45.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school enrolment (male%)</td>
<td>52.2</td>
<td>54.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth literacy (% ages 15-24)</td>
<td>81.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>87.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to essential drugs (% of total population)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to physicians (per 100,000 people)</td>
<td>&lt;30⁰</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigerians living with HIV/AIDS (millions)</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of HIV, female (% ages 15-24)</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidence of TB (per 100,000 people)</td>
<td>305</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 mortality rate (per 1,000)</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>183</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunization, measles (% of children under 12 month)</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunization, full (% of total children)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material mortality (modeled estimate, per 100,000 live births)</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>704⁰</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clean water</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to safe drinking water (% of population)</td>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parameter</td>
<td>Value 1</td>
<td>Value 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to safe drinking water (% of urban population)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to safe drinking water (% of rural population)</td>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to improved water source (% of population)</td>
<td></td>
<td>62</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to improved sanitation (% of population)</td>
<td></td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Empowerment</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of sects held</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By women in national Parliament (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population (millions)</td>
<td>111.3</td>
<td>125</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average annual growth in GDP</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** World Bank in NEEDS, National Planning Commission Abuja 2004:22. The Baseline data upon which reform projections are based.

This incidence of poverty is also reinforced as one takes a look at the 1999 indicator. This indicator has it that by 1999, it was estimated that more than 70 percent of Nigerians lived in poverty. This poverty line extended to the life expectancy that was at a mere 54 years, the infant mortality at (77 per 1,000) and maternal mortality (704 per 100,000 lives birth) are among the highest in the world.
Table 4 shows the world’s poorest countries in their serial number and the position of Nigeria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>s/no</th>
<th>Rank country</th>
<th>GDP PER CAPITAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>$550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>$710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dr. Congo</td>
<td>$710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>$720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Comoros</td>
<td>$725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>$730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Madagas Car</td>
<td>$780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>$820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>$820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>$860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>$880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Guinea – Bissau</td>
<td>$900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>$940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>$940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>$970</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: compiled from CIA world fact book (2005),
Other manifestations of incidence of poverty in Nigeria as 1999 indicator made us to believe are:

Only about 10 percent of the population had access to essential drugs (see table 2), there were fewer than 30 physician per 100,000 people, more than 5 million adults were estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS (see also table 2), among the children under five, almost 30 percent were under weight, only 17 percent of the children were fully immunized-down from 30 percent in 1990- and almost 40 percent had never been vaccinated, only about half of the population had access to safe drinking water (40 percent in rural areas, 80 percent in urban areas), some 29 percent of the total population and live at risk from annual floods (Niger Delta and Costal inhabitants), more than 90 percent of the rural population depended on forests for livelihood and domestic energy sources, and rural household spent an average of 1.5 hours a day collecting water and fuel wood, with household members walking on average of one kilometer a day to collect water and fuel wood. (NEPAD 2001; NEEDS 2004:30).

Qualitative poverty in Nigeria has many manifestations and dimensions, which includes: Joblessness, over-indebtedness, and economic dependence, lack of freedom, inability to provide the basic needs of life for self and family, lack of access to land and credit, and inability to save or own assets. Poor people obviously tend to live in dirty localities that put significant pressure on the physical environment, contributing to environmental degradation. The poor, especially the farmers, perceive their economic circumstances to be fraught with uncertainty, affected by events over which they have no control, such as primary commodity prices, the volume of rainfall, pest attacks, fire outbreaks, changes in soil conditions, and social conflict. Lack of food is the most critical conditions of poverty, reflected in the popular saying that “when hunger is exercised from poverty, the burden of poverty is light”.

These things (i.e) manifestations of poverty in Nigeria are caused by the inadequate growth that could aid sustainable poverty eradication in Nigeria.
This is more compounded by the volatility of the oil sector, which affect range of activities in the economy. Moreover, high and growing unemployment increases the number of poor people in Nigeria. Others are problems in the productive sector, widening income inequality, weak governance, social conflict, and gender, intersectional and environmental issues. This factors above contributed a lot to the incidence of poverty and recycling abject penury in Nigeria.

3.3 NEPAD and Poverty Eradication Policy Through Skill Acquisition:

This incidence of poverty is the major cause for the establishment of NEPAD. It is because the anxieties created as a result of the imperialistic sentiment from the World Bank/IMF poverty indicator made the federal government to look for any available means to subvert the menace of poverty in Nigeria. Before then, World Bank/IMF poverty indicators are nothing to write home about. They painted the most pitiable picture of abject and penury of our dear country. The ways and manners to which they presented the case created some reactionaries and ill feelings against our country. For those who are so much deep rooted in World Bank/IMF poverty indicator against our country Nigeria should know or should ask themselves are: from where did the World Bank/IMF got the data/ information on poverty level in Nigeria? Who gave them the information? What part of the governmental agency that gave out this data to World Bank/IMF to publish? And what Government will ever give out, such a gloomy poverty situation to the imperialist that never think well for our country, Nigeria? We are not saying that there are no cases of poverty or people living in poverty in Nigeria but the point is that it is not as dark as these imperialists would want us to believe. Were they not the same agencies that made us to adopt SAP, Privatization & Commercialization, Monetization Policy, import Substitution etc, for sustainable economic growth and development? The question is how far has this development policies helped to
enhance sustainable socio-economic and political growth and development of Nigeria? The point is that instead of revamping or re-vitalizing the economy, these development policies helped to vitiate and deep socked us in abject penury. How many of Nigerians that were laid off during the World Bank/IMF Inspired SAP and privatization and commercialization policies. The numbers are unimaginable? Or can any data reflect any or the magnitude of the social menaces caused by these World Bank/IMF inspired development policy on the people of Nigeria?

Their poverty indicators are deep rooted in liberal and neo-liberal paradigm. Records have shown that it has never been intended to help Nigeria but to further deepened under development and dependence. Exploitation without redress is another closer cousin to it. Yes, that is why Ake C (1979) warned us to be wearisome of Western social sciences because it tantamount to imperialism. The policies are intended to create dissatisfaction and to create hatred between the government and the miss-informed governed, thereby creating unwanted reactionaries in a once calm state. Well for the purpose of this research, World Bank/IMF poverty indicator is insignificant to this study. This is because it painted the most horrifying picture of poverty situation in Nigeria which at the time and period of this research was invalid and irrelevant. It is because it contains not only unclear data for this research but also distorted information and data that are insignificant for this research. These poverty indicators are based on fictitious projections that hold no water. We see them as enemies of Nigeria because neither the Federal Government nor its agencies can be quoted to have given-out this horrible picture of abject poverty as it is indicated in the World Bank/IMF poverty indicator would carry.

Although it is significance as it development has helped us to checkmate the rising incidence of poverty in Nigeria. As a roll-out programme to tackle this ugly trend called poverty, the Federal government instituted an institutional framework to tackle the menace of poverty in Nigeria. The most potent and
reliable source of data cannot be the one an enemy will give to his enemy but one a good and better friend will give. So, we rely mostly on the piece of information that defines the average incidence of poverty in Nigeria to have reflected at about 54.4% in 2003/2004, adult Literacy rate of 57%, life expectancy at birth stabilizing at 54%, and population growth rate of 28%, the material conditions of the citizenry is depreciating at 25% (CBN Annual Report and Statement of account, 2004:106). The important of this data from the CBN Annual report of 2004 cannot be over emphasized. This is because the data comes from reliable sources and as well as it is homing grown from the rightful governmental agency. As an established Frame Work (NEEDS) for poverty eradication policy in Nigeria, it is seen to tackle the endemic poverty in Nigeria. This situation got worse as alarms of marginalization from the Nigerian government was becoming over bearing. This over bearing incidence made some opinions especially Amin (2002) who also argued in the direction of poverty eradication to which NEPAD has taken. He said that Nigeria has always complained about marginalization and that this complaint is a misdirected arsenal. He argued that a country so much integrated into the global capitalist economy than other states in terms of her share in the external trade in GDP should not be seen as a misfortune. Amin represents among the “never do well” posture against NEPAD. This group never believed that NEPAD was established to eradicate poverty of any kind let alone any established agency to tackle this problem of poverty in Nigeria. As part of the diversionary practices of the enemies of NEPAD and her policy of poverty eradication, and as the saying goes “any rat that I can’t catch should at least leave its tail behind”, the group says that the marginalization posture which resulted in poverty in Nigeria further explains the magnitude of impoverishment in Nigeria.

The most annoying thing as we have discovered in the course of event is that Nigeria is been integrated in a most disturbing passive way thereby making her to adjust to change instead of initiating the moves. We also discovered that
it is as a result of following essentially the colonial division of labour with the super-exploitation and also lack of auto-centrism that this entails worsened the situation. But the fact remains that the colonial division of labour has reached its peak/limits through the evidence of recurring economic crises, total unmanageable debt burden and its subjection to recurring round of structural adjustment. Following the arguments above, for poverty eradication that will ensure sustainability in growth and development to take place, Nigeria should as a matter of fact pursue an auto-centered approach and re-integrate itself into the mainstream world’s economy on new terms of alignment.

These oppositions from the people that believe that NEPAD is a never do well programme that necessitated this research to validate that it is a do well programme also inspired Nigerian leaders that first thought about the master plans of NEPAD as poverty eradication in Nigeria. The obvious fact is that NEPAD and its poverty eradication policy as cited in Loxley, (2003:119) rest on a more sound real GDP growth rate in excess of 7% per annum, demarginalization of Nigeria in the globalization process, reduction on the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by a half between 1990-2015 and implementing national strategies for sustainable poverty eradication by 2015 so as to reverse the lose of environmental resources by the year 2020 and also help to reverse the vicious circle of poverty which NEPAD has come to address through sustainable poverty eradication in Nigeria.

NEPAD and the poverty eradication in the Nigerian economy that is aimed at accelerating sustainable poverty eradication is anchored on NEEDS. From our own opinion, NEEDS is an agent of sustainable poverty eradication that is instituted to help eradicate poverty in Nigeria. It is also a Nigeria’s plan for prosperity. It also defines the people’s way of letting the government know what kind of Nigeria they wish to live in now and in the future. It is the government way of letting the people to know how it plans to overcome the deep and pervasive obstacles to progress that the government and the people
have identified. We also see it as a way of letting the International Community know where Nigeria stands in the region and in the world and how it wishes to be supported. This last concept made the critics of NEPAD to see it as an institution through which the economy of Nigeria has been opened for imperial exploitation. It is not absolutely true that it has opened Nigeria for exploitation from the outsiders but it defines it in line with the pariah status of Nigeria before the restoration of democracy in 1999. Thus it is for:

the respect for elders, honesty and accountability cooperation, industry, discipline, self confidence, moral courage, creation of a new Nigerian citizen who value hard work and who realizes that one cannot have something for nothing, the kind of Nigeria we want for ourselves, children and the outside world (NEEDS, 2004:VIII)

In the words of the former President Olusegun Obasanjo, NEEDS is not created to make life difficult for Nigerians but rather, it is a commitment to steadily wipe off the pain of poverty from the faces of all Nigerians. He believes that to achieve this poverty eradication in Nigeria, all hands must be on desk by working together, thinking together, planning together, sharing ideas and hopes as well together (Punch, 2004:44). NEEDS is also the grand plan of the government strategically made to reposition Nigeria for stability and prosperity for sustainable poverty eradication that will wipe-out poverty in Nigeria. It advances the course of synchronizing with the AU and UN Initiatives that gives added legitimacy to the government reform agenda to eradicate poverty, job creation, and infrastructural development, expansion of the private sector and the development of the sectors that build capacity, productivity and sustainable growth and development. This corresponds with the opinion of Olatunde, (2005:8) that NEEDS forms the vehicle that aggregate Nigeria’s resources and provides the platform for a prosperous nation to the incoming generation, he also believes that NEEDS is
built on a firm foundation that crystallizes into employment generation, value reorientation, wealth creation and sustainable poverty eradication. It is anchored on pragmatic economic reform agenda, which apart from achieving the above listed objectives at poverty eradication, will similarly block economic leakages that serves as the barometer for international debt profiting to reawaken the national consciousness of Nigerians to economic revolution.

In addition, NEPAD through NEEDS eradicates poverty. The strategy used has been encapsulated in NEPAD’s policy on poverty eradication (skill acquisition and agricultural programmes). The strategy becomes a references point to other countries of Africa as part of “Countricization” of NEPAD Africa. The overwhelming supports and legitimacy conferred on NEEDS by the Paris Club as a policy support instrument (PSI) for sustainable poverty eradication is a landmark that we are applauding till today. This is because, at its inception, many Nigerians pilloried the government when NEEDS was officially flagged off over some year back. It was variously discussed from some quarters as one of those imperial programmes foisted on the country by the IMF and the World Bank. But the success stories of NEEDS poverty eradication cannot be over emphasized for sustainable poverty eradication and development of the Nigerian state. NEEDS in content and operation is a vision of tomorrow’s plan for meaningful sustainable poverty eradication for prosperity. It is on record that the citizens idea of Nigeria is made known as government uses it to espoused those means they used in over coming the deep and pervasive obstacle that inhibited the realization of the Nigeria dream and also made the International Community to know where Nigeria stands (Nigerian Tribune, 2005:8).

Moreover, NEEDS is all about the Nigerian people on how to tackle poverty, their health, education, employment, happiness, sense of fulfillment
and general well being which defines the social charter as the contract between
the individual and the government in which the government recognizes the
individual’s rights and responsibilities and promises to deliver the basic
necessities for a decent human existence that will help to eradicate poverty.
These necessities as encapsulated in the NEEDS policy of action on sustainable
poverty eradication are: Potable water, food security, clothing, shelter, adequate
nutrition, basic education, primary health care, production assets, security and
protection from shocks and risks. It is to turn the negative impressions against
NEPAD’s NEEDS on sustainable poverty eradication in Nigeria that necessitate
NEEDS as the policy strategy to significantly improve the quality of life of
Nigerians, create social safety net for the vulnerable, and meet the needs of the
people displaced by the reform processes in privatization process that defines
NEEDS as the impetus that will Push the nation forward through:

- Increased average per capital consumption by at least
  2 percent a year; created about 7 million jobs by 2007,
- increased immunization coverage to 60 percent by
  2007; increased the percent of the population with
- access to safe drinking water to at least 70 percent by
  2007; significantly increased school enrolment rates,
- especially for girls, and increased the adult literacy
- rate to at least 65 percent by 2007; significantly
- improve access to sanitation (NEEDS, 2004:341).

Sustainable poverty eradication through NEEDS strategy is a gradual process,
long winding and multistage process. Happily enough, since the implementation
of NEEDS is founded on sound values, clear vision and enduring principles, a
new and vibrant Nigerian has emerged. A new down has come where the
citizen’s values, hard work, are realized that one cannot have something for
nothing is evolving in the new Nigeria of our vision. People now recognized the
importance of honesty and accountability, probity and transparency, discipline,
self-confidence, industry, cooperation and moral courage. These are the stands
of NEEDS on poverty eradication for sustainable economic development and its
vision for Nigerian state that defined the eradication in the poverty levels in Nigeria by 5.0 in 2003 to 2007 (see NEEDS, 2004:XXIV).

For the realization of NEPAD’s dreams on poverty eradication, it is mostly seen on the platform of skill acquisition. This skill acquisition through the activities of NAPEP is aimed at achieving the remaining part of the activities of NEPAD and poverty eradication in Nigeria. The NEPAD poverty eradication policy and its sustainable developmental posture it has define its skill acquisition through the activities of the National poverty eradication programme (NAPEP). NAPEP is another NEPAD’s poverty eradication agency. This poverty eradication posture of NEPAD through NAPEP has been realized as a result of reduction in poverty rates in Nigeria through various skill acquisition training centers mounted by NAPEP to help realize the policy of NEPAD’s poverty eradication programmes. In the views of the National coordinator of NAPEP, Dr. Kpakol, says that the nation’s poverty rate has dropped drastically through “a more significant improvement in the provision of infrastructure in the country”, as this defines that NAPEP has already seized the opportunity to “engage more persons gainfully” through grass root initiative oriented programmes that aid poverty eradication for sustainability. This efforts at poverty eradication through NAPEP is more pronounced through the allocation of N30 billion by the federal government to fight against poverty in the country. It is also expected that the federal government has in addition to the above, put more machinery in motion to ensure that infrastructural problems hitting the country are reduced to the barest minimum (Guardian, 2005:65). In this area of infrastructural transformation, the federal government through the action pact NEPAD answers that the infrastructural transformations are made possible through massive road network construction as seen through FERMA, health cares, and safe environment. To ensure its full implementation, Kpakol in Guardian (2005:65), stated that the agency has already partner with the National Bureau of Statistics (Formerly: FOS) and the office of the Economic
Adviser to the President to do a survey on the poverty rate in Nigeria in order to assess how far it has gone in the fight against poverty.

Moreover, it is still on record, according to Kpakol that NAPEP has trained about 60 persons through various skill acquisition programmes in different areas in the last three month of 2007, that later benefited from its action pact programmes in ice block making programme. It is also on record that in all, a total of 30 machines that cost about N 16.6 million were distributed and given to the sixty participants to set up their own ventures (Guardian, 2005:65). To fast track poverty eradication through skill acquisition and training, Wokoma, (2005:65) told newsmen in Abuja that the repayment for the machines attract a zero percent interest for those who are specifically made to undergo the training programmes under NAPEP poverty eradication programe. She also stated that about 150 widows have also been empowered through its micro-credit scheme. She in addition says that the beneficiaries are going to utilize their money very well and into business and that her Abuja office has already partnered with the Ministry of FCT, to empower more people especially the most vulnerable groups in the society in different ventures and areas of their specific choices.

In another development, NAPEP has boasted its capacity building component of the poverty eradication strategy of the federal government. This is realized through its major targets as the poor women, farmers, young people, to enable them to contribute their own active quota and activity to sustainable economic development through grass root initiatives. This is actually based on the fact-finding impact assessment and inspection of its projects (i.e. skill acquisition training centres) to ascertain their strengths and encourage efficiency, NAPEP believes that it will help to spur the participants and encourage them into greater performance. This was actively noticed during the fact-finding mission embarked upon by Dr. Kpakol at FCT project site on 8th December, 2005 (Vanguard, 2005:17). It is also on record that at Kuje Area
Council, Kpakol is impressed by the success the agency has already so far recorded by the participants of the capacity acquisition programme whose businesses are steadily growing at a geometrical progressions. There, he commended two of the beneficiaries of the catering and hotel management services under NAPEP capacity acquisition programme. As cited in Vanguard (2005), the beneficiaries are fondly called “Madam Double” and “Madam B” as the beneficiaries in the NAPEP Catering and Hotel Management Training and Skill Acquisition that is being organized and held from March to August 2005. Accordingly, it is on record that the trainees received equipment worth ₦57,000 and ₦20,000 as start up grants. Today, “Madam Double” (Mrs. Caroline Osanya) and “Madam Kuje” (Hajai Fatima Yusuf), have respective modest restaurants in Kuje. With an average daily income of about ₦2,500, they jointly testified on how their lives have drastically changed and improved for better as a result of the assistance they received from NAPEP poverty eradication policy to set up their own business (see Vanguard, 2005).

This poverty eradication acquisition training are also seen at Asokoro village of the FCT, where an inspection of Ice block producer participants were trained successfully. Ice block making machines worth about ₦200,000 with the capacity of producing about 120 loaf size ice block on a credit basis is also instituted. One of the beneficiaries Mr. Samuel P. Ananah, makes an average sales of ₦3000.00 per day. Others are in the areas of hair dressing Salon under the PKT programmes at Nyanya. Kpakol, in all expressed satisfaction with the levels of the performances of NAPEP in poverty eradication and also urged the beneficiaries to continue to do their works diligently in order to help boast both their own income and as well participate to sustainable economic growth and development processes of the country’s GDP, Dr. Kpakol pledged for further assistance from them to ensure that they expand and accommodate other unemployed youths. He also called upon the beneficiaries to be more dedicative
so as to uplift their living conditions for their own benefit and that of the Nigerian nation in general.

3.4 NEPAD and Poverty Eradication Through Agriculture

As part of the NEPAD’s policy on poverty eradication, it is on record that the initiative at sustainable poverty eradication rest also on agriculture. Agriculture forms or takes the centre and occupied the most sensitive position at poverty eradication. It also provides the most sensitive area at employment generation and also provides the raw materials to feed the ever hungry industries of the developed world. Critics of NEPAD and her policy on poverty eradication believed that this real sector economy exist to provide the fertile ground to further the West imperialism in Nigeria. But as events unfolded it self, it was discovered that the critics are after all wrong. This is proved by the tremendous achievements recorded by this real sector economy on poverty eradication through its poverty postures. This argument is not far fetched as we consider NEPAD’s Pan African Cassava Initiative that is geared towards the exploitation of the enormous potentials of cassava for food security and income generation. It has also witnessed a quantum leap in cassava production in the country. Similarly, NEPAD project on fisheries is encouraging the development of the fishing industries in Nigeria. As a result, market is being sought for value added cassava and fishery based products in and outside Nigeria. More still, NEPAD’s agricultural policy seeks to maximize the contribution of the Nigeria’s largest economic sector to achieve sustainable poverty eradication through self reliance and productive economies. This is due to the fact that nearly 75% percent of Nigeria’s population is employed, either directly or indirectly, by this sector. It aims at agriculture led sustainable development that must eliminate hunger, eradicate poverty and food insecurity and also open the ways for export led expansion.
The NEPAD’s poverty initiative posture aimed at eradicating poverty in Nigeria for sustainability through agriculture has being encapsulated by Ezekiel, (2005:17), as:

the vision for agriculture is that Nigeria by the year 2015, improves the productivity of agriculture to attain an average annual growth rate of six percent, with particular attention to small scale farmers, especially focusing on women; have dynamic agricultural market within states and among the local governments; have integrates farmers into the market economy and have improves access to markets to become a net exporter of agricultural products; achieves a more equitable distribution of agricultural science and technology development; and practices environmentally sound production methods and have a culture of sustainable management of the natural resources base.

All these agricultural policy initiative posture that NEPAD had translated into action pact to eradicate poverty in Nigeria are seen through National Medium-Term Investment Programme (NMTIP). It is on record that through NMTIP and as part of the follow-up to the implementation of the NEPAD comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) initiative, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nation is able to provide for the assistance to the Federal Government of Nigeria through its Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in response to the Nigeria government request to use the medium to create an enviable opportunities to eradicate poverty (NEPAD Nigeria: Report on Programmes and Activities, 2003-2007). The objectives of the assistance are seen in two fold as the government has already envisages how it will help them to drive-home the message of NEPAD on poverty eradication in her policy to ensure sustainable economic development. These objectives are:
a formulated medium term investment programmes reflecting the commitment in the Maputo Declaration of Heads of State and government of the Africa Union to allocate within five years at least 10% of the national budget of the country to agriculture; and to prepare a portfolio of Bankable investment project profiles within priority areas identified in Maputo declaration at national level particularly in the areas of water control and rural infrastructure, and in additional areas of concentration to be identified during the first stage in accordance with the specific needs of the country. (Gabriel, 2005; Komolafe, 2005).

The NMTIP is a five year programme action pact charged with the responsibility of providing a comprehensive framework for grassroot investment in the sector under consideration. It is expected that the grassroot posture it had has already helped to sustain and eradicate poverty and as well as:

- created an environment favourable to improved competitiveness of the agriculture and rural sector;
- achieved quantitative objectives and mobilized resources to the extent needed for the associated investment in agriculture;
- achieved the targeted allocation of the national budgetary resources to this areas, reflecting the commitment made in the Maputo Declaration, and has created a frame work for coordinated bilateral and multilateral financing of the sector (NEPAD Nigeria Report, 2003-2007).

It is on record that the exercise from the NMTIP frame work has encompassed that of the CAAP frame work, which has already being broadened in scope for sustainable poverty eradication. It is also believed that it has already provided for the justification of its poverty initiative posture and for the different elements on the programme that has helped to indicate the scale of the financial gap that must be needed to fill in order to achieve the targeted level of investment in poverty eradication posture of NEPAD agricultural policies for sustainable development.
Another of the poverty initiative posture of NEPAD Agricultural policy is Pan-African Cassava initiative. The NEPAD Pan African Cassava Initiatives (PACI) is one of the NEPAD Agriculture Initiative geared towards tapping the enormous potential of cassava to provide for food security and income generation. The concept evolves from the series of consultative meetings and workshops held in late 2003 and early 2004 where it was strongly recommended that the grassroot initiative of cassava should be promoted as a poverty fighter across Nigeria and Africa (NEPAD Nigeria: Report on Programmes and Activities 2003-2007; Vanguard 2005). The result of the grassroot initiative posture of NEPAD Pan-African Initiative (PACI) aimed at eradicating poverty is that it:

Promoted awareness (social meeting) of cassava as both food security and raw material; facilitated the organization of cassava grower association (engendered deliverance of technology input extension and inputs and also facilitated collective marketing flow of problems of farmers to research and policy makers); has expanded and sustained cassava production and utilization as it enhanced household food security; has increased cassava physical product productivity and value addition among cassava growers for improved competitiveness for household income (technology development and transfer); has identified and created market opportunities and link those markets with growers and facilitated the brokering of contact agreement between them; has established and/or strengthen commodity chain institutions that facilitated the development of cassava sector/capacity building); has advocated for a conducive policy and institutional reforms for cassava development in Nigeria; has motivated multifunctional investment opportunity for the private sector (innovation funds) and finally, has established the institutional governance and management that drove the programme to the grassroot for sustainability (Loxley, 2000; NEPAD, 2001; Ezekiel, 2005).
The Pan-African Cassava Initiative (PACI) has focused on smallholder cassava growers. It formed an integrated approach that provided technology to growers, and linked farmers to market with sustained support from the government and the private sector. Under the short medium term, the strategy has devoted itself for utilized technologies already won on the shelf, multiplied and distributed to improved planting material, increased knowledge on how to produce cassava and processing technologies and linked growers to an identifiable market (i.e.), has a quantitative and qualitative access to market. The long-term strategy is based on the research into cassava for the future through capacity building and market development e.g. the use of cassava flour in bread making. Before this grassroot initiative is being implemented in Nigeria, NEPAD Nigeria has already had a consultative meeting with relevant stakeholders in the cassava industry. These relevant stakeholders are:

- members of the Presidential Committee on cassava,
- federal ministry of agriculture and rural development,
- the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), farmers and processing association etc.


It is on the basis of this wide consultations made, that a team of experts are drawn among the key stakeholders in cassava industry, put together that prepared the NEPAD PACI country strategy for Nigeria. The NEPAD cassava country strategy is unique to Nigeria because of its grassroot initiative focus on the small holder cassava producer in line with the policy of NEPAD on poverty eradication for sustainability. All the existing cassava development initiatives like cassava flour for bread making, garri processing etc., has already being integrated into the strategy (NEPAD 2001; NEPAD Nigeria: Report on Programmes and Activities, 2003-2007).
The other of the poverty initiative posture of NEPAD agricultural policy aimed at poverty eradication is NEPAD Fish for All Initiative. The NEPAD fish for all initiative is the first high profile African Wide Programme to draw global attention to the vital role fisheries and aquaculture play in meeting Africa’s development agenda. It is incorporated into NEPAD Nigeria as part of the “countricization” of NEPAD Africa and also as a follow-up of the grassroot initiative posture of NEPAD to stimulate sustainable development. It takes to Nigerian perspective as a result of its incorporation as part of NEPAD Nigeria’s policy on poverty eradication. In other to realize this objective as defined above, the NEPAD Secretariat, the World fish centre and the FAO took up an invitation from the then President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo who was at that time the Chairman of NEPAD and the Fish For All Initiative, that organized the NEPAD fish for all summit in Abuja from 22-25 August, 2005 under his chairmanship. It was composed of a two-day technical symposium as in, Nigeria fisheries day and African fisheries exhibition, and Heads of state summit that endorsed the common African objectives for the future of fisheries and Aquaculture in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals. The summit underlined the need to eradicate poverty through fisheries, make fisheries a grassroot initiative policy for sustainability and mobilized resources in support of sustainable fishery and aquaculture development in Nigeria. At the end of the summit, it was resolved that “the Abuja Declaration on grassroot sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in Nigeria and that the NEPAD Action Plan on Fishery and Aquaculture should be localized to encourage local production of fishes which they believe will ultimately aids both the grassroot initiative policy of NEPAD and the sustainable economic development for poverty eradication (NEPAD Nigeria, 2003/2007).

In order to enrich discussion and as part of the poverty initiative posture of NEPAD’s policy on poverty eradication at the NEPAD Fish-For –All Summit and to ensure proper development and implementation of viable follow-
up programmes after the summit, which must benefit Nigeria, NEPAD Nigeria facilitated the involvement of the UNIDO/UNEP/GEF, Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) projects under the framework of the environment initiative of NEPAD to participate at the summit. The GCLME project covered all the coastal and marine environment of the Niger Delta Areas and Coastal fringes. The projects are designed to improved governance structures on fisheries and build capacity for group of states in Nigeria to deal with the environmental and resource management problems that occur across the stated boundaries and to ensure that natural marine ecosystems including their river basin drainage system are managed in an integrated manner. In addition, the projects have some substantial fisheries and aquaculture/marine culture components which represents a substantial financial resources mobilized from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The intention of this programme has already positioned Nigeria to benefit from the GCLME project in the implementation of the follow up actions arising from the Abuja Fish Summit that aids the grassroot initiative posture of the NEPAD Nigeria (NEPAD Nigeria: Report on programmes and activities, 2003-2007). NEPAD Nigeria has held preliminary meetings and consultations in this regard with the UNIDO Regional Director and Coordinator of the GCLME projects. Following the pivotal roles played by NEPAD Nigeria in the grassroot initiatives of NEPAD policy and for sustainable economic development and having served in several committees including the national steering committee (LOC), it becomes clear that NEPAD Nigeria will continue:

to facilitate and foster collaboration among the local stakeholders through organized meetings and workshops. NEPAD Nigeria will carry out sensitization and awareness out reach programmes through its state and Local NEPAD Coordinators in Order to elicit people and community participation and engagement in fisheries and aquaculture activities; NEPAD Nigeria will also carry out periodic
monitoring and evaluation of the programme to ensure that it is implemented in accordance with the continental NEPAD agenda of the Socio-economic advancement and poverty eradication in the region thereby achieving some of the objectives of the MDGs. i.e. ensuring that the Nigerian local content cluster initiative of fisheries and fish water resources development is mainstreamed/integrated into the national agenda; prepare periodic report on the implementation of the NEPAD Fish-For-All Programme in Nigeria. Such document would be made available to all the key stakeholders in the fishery and aquaculture sector. (NEPAD Nigeria, 2003/2007).

Accordingly, NEPAD Nigeria recognizes the vital contributions of Nigeria Inland, Marine and Coastal Fisheries and also aquaculture to food security, poverty eradication and increased income of million of Nigerians and for sustainable economic development of the country. NEPAD also commends the growing opportunities and success stories of artisanal fisheries development in Nigeria. It has therefore continued to intensify efforts towards the promotion of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development in Nigeria through effective grassroot initiatives which facilitate the implementation of the NEPAD action plan on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. (NEPAD Nigeria: Report on Programmes and activities, 2003-2007).

The implication of this finding to hypothesis one is that NEPAD is able to solve the problem of high incidence of poverty in Nigeria through enhancing the programmes on eradication of poverty. This is achieved through various skill acquisition programmes mounted by NEPAD that helped in reducing the high rate of poverty in Nigeria at least by 57.8% (Omoh, 2005: 12)
CHAPTER FOUR
NEPAD AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

4.1 Introduction

Nigeria has consistently fallen into the group of countries with a low level of human development due to unemployment as based on the Human Development Index (HDI) coefficient of less than 0.5 (on a scale of 0 to 1). Thus, with a score average of 0.439, Nigeria occupies a lowly 151st position among 174 counties ridden with the problem of unemployment (UNDP, 2000 Report). Indeed, the HDI for 2002 ranked Nigeria as the world’s 26th poorest country in terms of Human Development Index. Up from 28% in 1980, over 70% of Nigerians, mostly children and youths then lived below poverty line of below $ 1 a day (World Bank, 2002). The rising incidence of inflation and prevalence of hyper inflations that are largely attributed to unemployment and curding impacts of the reform agenda of deregulation and monetization by the then Obasanjo and the Un-visionary seven points agenda of President Musa Yar’adua has further vitiated real income and have in addition truncated health, education and other social service delivery including, the issue of Unemployment.

Further more, the Nigerian state pursues unrealistic development policies which in themselves reproduce abject poverty, unemployment, and underdevelopment, deepens dependency and vitiates efforts at employment generation for human development in Nigeria. As a corollary of the above, employment for human development has remained largely illusive as illiteracy, poverty level, unemployment, malnutrition and inflationary rate, have continued to show unfavourable records. According to the 2002 Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) reports, the country’s Human Development Misery Index (HDMI) has worsened (Vanguard, Editorial, July 21, 2003). However, the growing failure of development that resulted to unemployment and the incidence of poverty in
Nigeria has created the platform for the introduction of NEPAD Nigeria. In-fact, NEPAD Nigeria has been discovered to been deep-rooted in reformist (modernization) paradigm which made it very necessary to define the prevailing global economic order to reflect the balance of class forces and the distribution of economic surplus therein. It is therefore expected that NEPAD Nigeria will under this circumstance help to consolidate the gains from global capitalism and subsequently, uphold the choices available for realistic and better employment for human development in Nigeria.

It therefore behooves that employment generation that will ensure human development defines the management and conservation of the natural resources base and the orientation of technological and institutional change in such a manner as to ensure the attainment and continued satisfaction of human needs for present and future generations. Well, the above analysis as has been shown vividly demonstrated that Nigerian nation is riddled with low human resource development that resulted from unemployment and poverty. This incidence has escalated and thus most of the citizens live under a condition of life so characterized by malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, squalid surroundings, high infant morality and low life expectancy. Indeed, Nigeria’s political leaderships appeared more disturbed at the orgy situation and hence agreed among themselves to establish NEPAD to reverse the dwindling human development situation for better employment.

What we are going to do in this chapter under “NEPAD and human development through employment” is to synthesize the major topic with other sub-headings like: NEPAD and employment generation, Employment generation (human development) and poverty eradication and finally, NEPAD and policies for sustainable employment generation in Nigeria.
4.2 NEPAD and Employment Generation

It is on record that from all indications that Nigeria is among the developing Nations of the World with low incidence of human development due to unemployment. For the NEPAD’s policy towards poverty eradication and for grassroots initiative to be something to write home about, there is need to take adequate measures towards employment generation. It is from the realization of employment generation that the values of NEPAD’s policies are achieved. Therefore, employment generation defines sustainable improvements in the quality of life of all the people of Nigeria through increases in real income per capita, improvements in education, health and general quality of life and improvement in the quality of national environmental resources.

In spite of uncountable criticisms against NEPAD’s policies on employment, human development has also been criticized especially from the labour practices of the MNCS in Nigeria. According to one of the criticisms, there has always been exploitation of labours among the MNCs especially from those branded as casual workers. This practice is made possible due to unemployment. The few that is available, the owners use it as shylocks. Had jobs been every where, these inhuman acts would have been reduced. Thus, NEPAD came to address this issue of unemployment by creating jobs. In his exact words, Komolafe, (2006:37) noted:

That in most cases, casual workers enjoy no protection from labour legislation and this leads to them not enjoying any benefits, often working long hours with no job security and earning meager wages.

In the same circumstance, Tuaj Jr. cited in Komolafe (2006:37) observes that NEPAD’s policy towards employment generation for human development will fail because it is economically and fundamentally flawed. This he believes because the NEPAD’s prescriptions for the development of human resources through employment define precisely the source of Nigeria’s problem. These doubts about NEPAD nearly destroyed the aims and objectives of NEPAD
towards employment opportunities and what the Nigerian leaders and policy makers did is tailoring human resources development towards job creation for sustainability toward education and health care delivery system especially from free maternal and child health care delivery system. This they believe that a healthy nation is a wealthy nation. What happened is that they rolled-out both educational policy and health policy geared towards improving sustainable human development so that the training exercise from education will be sustained for effective achievement of NEPAD’s policy towards job creation and tackling issue of unemployment.

Since education is the bedrock and foundation for human resource development, what the Nigerian leaders did in order to prove the critics of NEPAD’s policy toward human development wrong is tailoring the policy of employment generation towards education. This is because it forms the basic, legacy any country can beget her citizen and also provide the ground for sustainability. For this educational policy to be realistic, the federal government through it UBE and SPEB programme rolled-out “Education For All Initiative” to aid sustainable human development as trainees and graduates from this programme had already been assured of employment. This programme that is basically aimed at sustainable human development through job creation emanated from the NEPAD e-school programme which is a Pan-African Initiative set up to promote education through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Nigerian schools. It is also aimed at encouraging the roles of education in employment generation as the focal point for sustainable human development and for access to information. The NEPAD e-school programme is a flagship of the employment programme initiative of NEPAD e- Africa Commission which aimed at:

- impacting ICT skills and knowledge to primary and secondary school pupils so as to enable them function in the emerging information society and knowledge based economy, use ICT improve the health of young
Nigerians; use ICT to improve the provision of education in Nigerian schools including the provision of teachers with ICT skills that will enable them to use ICT as tools to enhance teaching and learning; and provide schools, managers, with ICT skills for effective administration and management of their schools (NEPAD Nigeria: Report on programmes and Activities, 2003-2007:7)

Under NEPAD Africa, this e-school programme is meant for all the African countries which include: Algeria, Angola, Benin Republic, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, and republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda. This initiative involved 600,000 schools across the continent and as part of the “countricization” of NEPAD Africa Programme; the e-school programme of NEPAD Africa is implemented in Nigeria through NEPAD Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Education and Federal Ministry of Science and Technology. The programme is realized through six secondary schools in Nigeria that are being then selected to be part of the pilot phase of the project. In order to balance the concept of “Federal Character”, one school is selected from each of the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria. These schools are: Science & Technical College Uyo; Science & Technical College, Lassa; Government Academy, Suleja; Government Girls College, Owerri (NEPAD Nigeria: Report on programmes and activities 2003/2007). Still on Education, the NEPAD Nigeria e-school programme has already collaborated with the Education Trust Fund, the Federal and State Ministries of Education, and the private sector for the purpose of ensuring the employment of those so trained to ensure the sustainability of human development through ICT training and full implementation of the NEPAD Nigeria e-school Admin Project. These e-school projects are seen today in most of the designated secondary and tertiary institutions all over the country e.g. Afri-hub. This project involves the development, employment of human resource so trained to manage and
deployment of computer software arranged to affect the training exercise with portfolio of programmes designed to cover virtually every aspect of the educational management and administration of secondary and tertiary institutions in Nigeria. The software package is designed to fill the existing gaps in the way and manner that data and information are managed in our schools. This project has contributed immensely to states’ or national educational data gathering programmes, thereby improving on decision making, planning and budgeting. It also defines its portfolio package of programmes designed solely to cover every aspect of the educational management, training, employment and administration in Nigerian schools. The Nigerian professionals have collaborated and designed it with the stakeholders with practical experience in Nigerian school management and administration system. These programmes comprises of an integrated portfolio of some core module as in: student module; personnel module; time table module; account module; and report module. Twelve states (two from each of the geopolitical zone) have already been selected and integrated for the project. The state and the number of schools involved (in bracket) are as follow:

- Ogun (150)
- Ekiti (150)
- Imo (130)
- Ebonyi (130)
- Kogi (80)
- Nassarawa (80)
- Kebbi (80)
- Katsina (80)
- Adamawa (120)
- Gombe (120)
- A’Ibom (130)
It is now on record that about six states of the Federation have formally launched the first phase of the project. The states are Adamawa, Abonyi, Kogi, Nassarawa, Katsina and Ogun. What the states did was that they made provisions for computers with its necessary accessories and peripherals including printers, USP and power stabilizers as the take-off of the project for all the participating secondary schools.

In another development as part of the furtherance of the employment generation policy of NEPAD Nigeria, NEPAD policy and programme is being programmed to eradicate poverty for sustainable human development through NEPAD Nigeria Techno Future Dividend Initiative. Techno-Future-Nigeria (an ICT company) is the company contracted for the realization of these educational objectives also aimed at eradicating unemployment. It entered into partnership with NEPAD Nigeria under an initiative called NEPAD Nigeria-Techno-Future-Digital Dividend Initiative. The goals of the initiative in realization of the policy for employment generation for poverty eradication are that it:

facilitated the implementation of the NEPAD Information and Communication Technology (ICT) programmes at the state and local levels; achieved concrete, quick-win and sustainable results that will benefit the generality of Nigerians; bridged the digital (gaps) divide by empowering Nigerians with crucial technology and entrepreneurship skill or life skills; broke the poverty cycle and replaced it with a virtuous cycle based on self sufficiency and employment; promoted economic growth and sustainable development via job and wealth creation; and (has) closed the literacy gap especially among the historically disadvantaged groups (NEPAD Nigeria 2001; NEPAD Nigeria: Report on Programmes and Activities, 2003-2007).
In furtherance of these set out objectives, NEPAD Nigeria and Techno-Future Nigeria have already collaborated with organizations within the Nigerian Public Private Sectors, multilateral organization(s) and non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to achieve these laudable Objectives that form part of the employment creation aimed at human development plan. The initiative is cross-sectorial that presented a Unique model of private public sector partnership whereby the project is not to be “owned” by any one-government ministry or agency. Instead, it is driven by the private sectors from the start to finish. NEPAD Nigeria’s primary role as far as this job creation issue is concerned for eventual human development must be achieved through education and training as well as to guard the implementation of the project arising from the initiative and also to provide the necessary support to achieve the techno-future Nigeria in the form of branding within the framework of NEPAD eg. NEPAD rice, NEPAD biscuits, NEPAD Yam, NEPAD cassava NEPAD flour etc. (The comet Monday, December 20, 2004:34) The initiative has assisted to fast track capacity building programmes in the area of ICT-especially as it relates to the promotion of entrepreneurship among various stakeholders in Nigeria. The stakeholders that translated those action pact of NEPAD’s employment development policy through education are: learners; members of the civil society, community based organization, unemployed, NGOs, faith-based Organization, skills acquisition programme trainee, private sector workers, civil servants, poverty eradication programme beneficiaries and small and medium scale entrepreneurs (NEPAD, 2001).

To further expand the education programmes of NEPAD Nigeria, it collaborated with the National University Commission (NUC), Onsite solution services (a London based IT consultancy firm) and a host of other Development Partners towards the development and implementation of NEPAD knowledge ring project. It is conceived to enhance the full integrations of e-learning Technology into the Nigeria Educational system. It created an enabling platform
for the NEPAD e-learning initiative as it has strategically used the internet networking technologies to positively impact learning, training for employment and subsequently increased the quality of education in Nigeria, at both secondary school level and also at the tertiary levels. The project is designed to the extent that it has created the consortium of easy access to information and resources to aid students in their studies. This is because it has provided the technology through which students could easily browse through the universities courses and access the teaching materials of other relevant Nigerian institutions. It also created an avenue to deliver more interactive lesions which helps substantially to subsist the stress from the lecturers and those responsible for the delivery of the curriculum (NEPAD, 2001; Aredo, 2003; and Kanbur, 2001).

On health care delivery system, Nigerian nation knows that a healthy nation is a wealthy nation. And that the stability of employment development must be bestowed upon the health policies made by the government and its agencies. It is also axiomatic too to believe that for a viable employment aimed at poverty eradication that will give rooms for both employment and development initiatives to take place, emphasis must be kept on the health of the citizens. This is because it is the people and not trees are going to effect and affect policies made by the government. In order to speed-up these programmes and policies from the health sector that will ensure human development, the federal government of Nigeria under its NEPAD policy promoted the free maternal and child health care delivery system. It was noticed before now that a good number of goals and target had been set at least to reduce the disease burden in Nigeria caused by lack of money due to unemployment. These include: the policy of immunization, treated mosquito net, spinal cord meningitis etc. Although, the balance of reasons very from state to state on the reasons the policy could not subsist, not on the ground that they are unattainable but because:

safety in pregnancy and childbirth has not been achieved; people are not sufficiently empowered
through employment to improve their own health; widespread poverty and marginalization and displacements in Nigeria has contributed a lot on why it could not be achieved (NEPAD Health Strategy: Executive summary: 3).

Based on these seemingly identified problems, the federal government had to take up more strict measures to achieve safety in pregnancy and childbirth, empower people through employment generation to achieve their own health, curb the menace of poverty through sustainable health care delivery system. The NEPAD health vision is a Nigerian policy to rid off the heavy burden of avoidable ill health, disability and premature death especially through pregnancy and childbirth, for its poorest people. This has helped NEPAD health Strategic Directions to explain the medium term strategy that follows a comprehensive, integrated approach at addressing the disease burden in Nigeria especially those ones that are usually emanate from pregnancy and child health care delivery system for sustainable human development that will ensure poverty eradication are:

- build secured health systems and services;
- strengthen programmes to reduce the burden of diseases;
- provide skilled care for pregnancy and childbirth;
- enable the individual action to improve health;
- and effectively use of the sufficient sustainable resources

These strategic directions as believed to be so would be complementary to interventions in other priority areas identified in NEPAD, recognizing the close linkages between health, education and overall human development through job creation. Thus, the strategy recognizes and supports commitments within NEPAD at addressing broader issues that are undermining health, unemployment, poor governance, poverty and low educational levels (NEPAD Health Strategy: Executive Summary: 17).
4.3 Employment Generation and Poverty Eradication:

Employment generation that can lead to poverty eradication is mostly found through the public private partnership posture of NEPAD Nigeria. The public private Partnership of NEPAD Nigeria believes that any policy that exclude the people will fail… this is because the focus of NEPAD Nigeria is on public private sector for national development aimed at generating sustainable employment for the people. This formed the basis of Abuja meeting (2005) which was organized by the NEPAD Business group, Nigeria (Gabriel, 2005:19). It was aimed at public private partnership to bring about the integration of the government as well as the business leadership as they discussed issues relating to unemployment’s and ways at solving them. The forum voted overwhelmingly for the eradication of unemployment in Nigeria through public private partnership for sustainable human development.

This is because, they saw the dangers of continued deprivation of the less privileged and accorded the problems of employment generation and poverty eradication through public private partnership a new priority in their economic agenda for 2005. In the meeting, one of the participant asked; “does it mean that there is hope in sustainable human development, generation and poverty eradication through public private partnership for Nigerians?” This question above is exactly what necessitates the means through which job creation and development could lead to poverty eradication through public private partnership. On the issue of glaring poverty that may translate into hope for the poor Nigerians, Kpakol (2005) once said that poverty due to unemployment has become one of the major challenges facing Nigeria. He says so, because according to him, many people have suffered pronounced deprivation even as reforms continued across the nation. In his usual manner he avers that this condition of poverty, if not adequately addressed through sustainable human development can create a divide that can engulf our nation. He however gives the hope by saying that although poverty that resulted from unemployment was
high at about 65.6 percent in 1996; it has dropped to about 57.8 percent as a result of the ongoing reforms in Nigeria (Omoh, 2005:19).

Having painted the pitiable looks of poverty and unemployment in Nigeria, the question is what is the means through which job creation could be effected to reduce poverty in Nigeria. These means are as follow:

For the public private partnership to be effective for employment development that could lead to poverty eradication, it is incumbent on government as well to promote a liberal environment and encourage private initiatives, establish a positive investment climate, develop infrastructural facilities, establish appropriate regulatory, legislative and policy environment and ensure a fair, equitable and efficient tax regime. Another mean is through wealth creation and accumulation, combined with a progressive social policy of more equitable distribution of national income. This will help the Businessmen to generate capital and create jobs for employment and accumulate wealth. This has created a situation whereby the government has fashioned out a coherent and viable private sector development strategy that will help to solve the problems of capital formation, job creation and poverty eradication.

NEPAD’s means to job creation that could lead to poverty eradication is through public private partnership strategy that can also take the advantages of the opportunities that are abound in the domestic and global market, to build the strategy towards achieving the transformation of public private partnership that could lead to poverty eradication through employment generation. These strategies rest on: redefining the role of government as the facilitator and promoter of the economy thereby recognizing that market failures in developing economies, requires targeted incentives and interventions in the specific area to promote specific sectors of the economy. Government also uses the opportunity to complement the usual enabling
environment model of development with some targeted entrepreneurial interventions to bolster weak and vulnerable sectors.

Another means is to consolidate and strengthen an enabling environment for a competitive private sector. The aimed is targeted at absorbing the trained skill labour for sustainable gainful employment.

The specific measures aimed at achieving this competitive private sector aimed at gainful employment include:

- Continue to improve security, the rule of law, and the timely enforcement of contract; continue to reduce policy-related costs and risks, such as corruption, red tape, and administrative barriers to businesses; a weak legal system. Adequate protection of property rights; inadequate enforcement of tariffs dumping of fake and substandard products; and policy and other uncertainties associated with exchange rate and other prices, invest heavily in infrastructure, especially electricity, transport, and water. As far as the above is concerned, studies have shown that about 25% of business start-up costs are spent on private power generators, and privately generated electricity costs about two and a half times as much as electricity provided by the power holding company of Nigeria.

- Another means through which employment development through public private partnership could eradicate poverty is to provide the targeted interventions as incentives to grow the private sector (NEEDS, 2004:53). The government aims to play an active developmental role, while avoiding the mistakes of the past direct interventions in the economy, by adopting the following strategies: nationally coordinated strategies for the key sectors that drive growth in agriculture, small and medium-size enterprises, manufacturing, oil and gas sector, solid minerals, and services (especially information and communication technology and tourism). Explicit strategies and interventions are designed for each of these sectors to harness and maximize their potential for growth and sustainable poverty eradication;
cheap and easy access to finance. In the medium to long run, the government plans to drastically reduce the many costs businesses in Nigeria face. In the short to medium term, it will direct low cost credit to the productive sectors as an incentive to jump-start the private sector; privatization and liberalization. Privatization of public enterprises is aimed at shrinking the domain of the state and enlarging the size of the private sector. With this, the problem of unemployment would be a thing of the past as each participant can now employ labour to represent their own economic interests. It is also aimed at improving their long-term sustainability and contribution to poverty eradication. The liberalization of the sector hitherto monopolized by the government is expected to unleash competition by the private sector- and hence spur growth and employment generation.

Creation of the public private partnership is another means through which employment generation could be achieved to eradicate poverty so as to help government to be effective in its entrepreneurial or developmental role. It needs to be actively interact with private sector on an ongoing basis to ensure continuing feedback. Government at all levels will maintain structured interactions with the private sector operators to ensure a true partnership in the development process for gainful employment.

From the foregoing strategies, NEPAD Nigeria sees the rapid growth of a resilient and competitive private sector as the key component of a job creation reform programme. As part of the transformation agenda, the government is trying to diversify the economic base and reduce the dominance of the oil sector, increase local value added, increase the share of manufactured goods in total exports, and create incentives for a vibrant private sector that can respond to the rigors of market forces. The government has already taken a good number of steps in this direction by establishing the Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission and Technology Business Incubation Centres. These centres provide the conducive environments for nurturing the start up and growth of
small and medium-size enterprises engaged in value-added and technology-related manufacturing.

The employment generation posture in the public private partnership of NEPAD Nigeria will also strengthen the growing partnership between the private and public sectors, while it advances for the policy of private sector-led growth. Enterprising Nigerians, irrespective of their location, will be encouraged to participate in the transformation of Nigeria into an economy that is robust, stable, dynamic, competitive and export-led. The role of government will be redefined as that of a facilitator and a catalyst. Where it is in the public interest, deregulation will be vigorously pursued with the government playing the supervisory and regulatory role. These strategies above are effectively protected by the 2004 competition policy and Anti-Trust legislation, the key component of the private sector growth strategy (NEEDS, 2004:53-54)

4.4 NEPAD and Policies for Sustainable Employment Generation:

The concept of sustainable development has a recent origin. The term was first used by the world conservation of strategy presented by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in the 1980s. Accordingly, Jhingan, (2005:22iie) remarked that it is commonly used to define the Brundtland, report, entitled “our common future, of the world commission on environment and development in 1987”, as meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations. It emphasizes on the creation of sustainable employment from the perspective that it should keep on going to subsist. According to Jhnigan, (2005:22iie), sustainable development has a link with human development under job creation which defines a specific situation in which human development (as in employment policy) does not decrease overtime. It defines, it in terms of everlasting and also contributes to the quality of life through improvements in our natural environments. The utility of this as described above cannot be over emphasized.
This is because the natural environment itself will in turn supply utility to the individuals employed, inputs to the economic process and services that support life. The opinion of Pearce and Warford in Jhnigan, (2005) has also a dialectical link with NEPAD’s Policy on sustainable employment generation in Nigeria. This is because their own meaning of sustainable development describes that processes in which natural resources base (seen as the implementation and translation of poverty eradication policy into reality) is not allowed to deteriorate.

The objectives of job creation for sustainable human development are aimed at creating sustainable human improvement in the quality of life for all the people as the major target of poverty eradication policy. It is also a well known fact that the poverty eradication policy of NEPAD Nigeria, apart from its objectives of increasing economic growth and meeting the basic needs of the people, also has the objective of uplifting the living standards of the people via job creation and wealth creation policy which includes other specific goals such as “bettering people’s health and education opportunities, giving every one the chance to participate in public life and as well as promoting inter-gene rational equity”. With this, it has met the required needs of the people in the present generation that forms the essentials of sustaining the needs of future generations (Jhingan 2005; Akokpari, 2003). Sustainable job creation as it synchronizes with the NEPAD is also aimed at maximizing the net benefits of economic development, subject to maintaining the stock of all the environmental and natural resources assets (physical, human and natural) overtime. In this context, as a political economist, there is the need to distinguish between the concept of strong sustainability and weak sustainability to show the extent at which NEPAD’s policy on poverty eradication is able to subsist. While strong sustainability requires that the natural capital stock should not decrease, the weak sustainability requires that the total values of the physical, human, and natural capital stock should not decrease (Jhnigan, 2005). Pearce and his
colleague have preferences for the weak sustainability. This is borne-out of their
desire as they believe that increases in other capital stock can substitute for
decrease in the natural capital stock (cited in Jhingan, 2005). As a result,
sustainable employment generation in its weak form implies “that the rate of
development (in employment) over time is generally positive over some selected time horizon”. It is also aimed at accelerating economic
development in order to conserve and enhance the stock of environmental,
human and physical capital without making the future generations worse off

Well this topic deals will the policies that should be adopted in order to
sustain employment aimed at eradicating poverty in Nigeria. For this,
agricultural and industrial development along with urbanization and the spread
of infrastructure combined with population growth have actually led to
environmental degradation. The said environmental degradation also harms
human health, reduces economic productivity and leads to the loss of amenities.
The damaging effects of human development on environmental degradation can
be reduced by a judicious choice of economic and environmental policies and
environmental investments. Choice between policies and investments should
aim at harmonizing economic development with sustainable employment. We
hereby discuss some of the policy measures that we believe shall eradicate
poverty through sustainable employment generation.

**These Policy Measures Are:**

1. **Eradicating poverty:** Such a development project aimed at poverty
   eradication should be made available by greater employment opportunities to
   the poor. The government on its own part should expand health and family
   planning services and education so as to reach the poor to help reduce
   population growth. Accordingly, Jhingan (2005:22iik), further observes that
   making investment by providing sanitation facilities, alternate habitats in
place of slums, will not only improve the welfare of the citizen but also their environment.

Another policy for sustainable employment aimed at eradicating poverty is for the government to remove subsidies especially from the private sector. To reduce environmental degradation at no net financial cost to the government subsidies for resource used by the private and public sectors should be removed especially from the use of electricity, fertilizer, pesticides, diesel, petrol, gas, irrigation, water, lead to their wasteful use and environmental problems. Subsidies to capital intensive and highly polluting private and public industries lead to environmental degradation. Removing or reducing subsidies will automatically bring about both economic and environmental benefits to the country, which in its own, aids sustainable development.

Further, market based approaches can as well be seen as a strategy for sustainable employment. Besides the regulatory measures, there is this urgent need for the adoption of the environment. The policy is aimed at pointing to the consumers and industrialist about the cost of using natural resources of the environment (Todaro and Smith, 2007; Barur, 1971; Jhingan 2005). These costs are reflected in the process paid for goods and services so that industrialists and ultimately, the consumers are guided by them to reduce air and water pollution. The Market Based Instruments (MBIs) approach is used in both developed and developing countries, and price based. They appear in form of environmental taxes that includes pollution charges (emission tax/pollution taxes), marketable permits, depositor fund system, input taxes/product charges and subsidies for pollution abatement equipment for air and water resources (Jhnigan, 2005).

Economic incentives are also another policy measures aimed at sustaining employment for growth and development. This relate to prices, quantity and technology. Incentives are usually in form of variable fees to resources users
for the quantity of pollutants in air, water and land use. They are given rebates if less water or pollution is generated than the emission standard lay down.

Another in the series of measures for employment generation is seen from the perspective of trade policy. Trade policy in relation to environment has two implications: first, concerning domestic policy reforms agenda; and second, relating to international trade policy. The domestic trade policy emphasizes about the establishment of less pollution industries away from the citizen and the use of environment friendly processes for polluting industries by adopting cleaner technologies. But as regards to the relation between international trade and environmental quality is concerned, controversy has been going on as to whether liberalized trade could cause environmental degradation. The controversy leads to the conclusion that “over all, trade liberalization is likely to produce negative environmental externalities, but also some positive environmental gains”. The former does not imply that free trade should be stopped. Rather, what it does imply is that such cost effective policies, should be adopted to optimize externalities. Environmental degradation from free trade policies should be reduced by strict domestic policy measures based on the “polluter pays the Principle”. It is better to insist on the foreign company to transfer clear technology and assist in cleaning the environment for the existing industries.

There should be also a public participation programmes that should be put in place for sustainable growth and development. Public awareness and participation are highly effective to improve the environmental conditions. Conducting of formal and informal education programmes relating to environmental management and environmental awareness programmes can go a long way in controlling environmental degradation degradation and keeping the environment clean. For instance, the scheme of eco-labeling of
products helps consumers to identify products that are environment friendly (Baur 1971; Jhnigan 2005).

Nigeria in emulating Japan should for instance, look at consumers co-operative that “popularize green products in Japan which are recyclable, bio degradable rechargeable Ozone friendly, and unleaded”. (Jhingan, M.L 2005) As a step forward, firms, industries and other establishment in some countries have to disclose in the Annual Reports the extent to which they are adopting environment friendly measures. Finally, we are of the opinion that for effective sustainable employment generation that will ensure poverty eradication in Nigeria, there is need for public participation in entrepreneurship. This is because, public participation can also render costless and useful assistance through job creation in a forestation, conservation of wildlife, management of park, improvement of sanitation and drainage systems and food control. Use of indigenous institutions and local voluntary organizations can render much help in educating masses about the harmful effects of environmental degradation on human development and the benefits of keeping the environment clean.

The implication of this finding is that NEPAD is able to solve the problem of unemployment through employment generations that aid sustainable human development in Nigeria. It is also able to initiate a programme capable of developing human being sustainably. This is seen through employment generation opportunities in Nigeria. This human development initiative from NEPAD has actually helped in reducing the rate of poverty in Nigeria.
CHAPTER FIVE
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

5.1 Summary

The growing incidence of poverty throughout the continent of Africa has necessitated the initiation of a new strategy that aims at eradicating absolute poverty in the continent. This initiative has been domesticated in Nigeria both at the national, state and local government levels. This strategy finds its most lucid expression in the New Economic Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). From a general point of view, we interrogated the relevance of NEPAD in eradicating poverty in Nigeria. Specifically, we interrogated the following hypotheses:

1. NEPAD has achieved poverty eradication in Nigeria through skill acquisition programme.
2. NEPAD initiative has generated employment opportunities to enhance human development in Nigeria.

Based on the analysis above, the researcher also familiarized his readers on how NEPAD was evolved to meet local contents, demands and initiatives. In chapter one, the researcher first introduced the work. It defined the total background upon which the foundation of the study is laid.

In chapter two, the researcher discussed about the origin of NEPAD, its objectives, and also the organizational structures through which it is used on poverty eradication that helped to sustain economic growth and development in Nigeria. The researcher in addition emptied the content of the origin of NEPAD, the objectives as it defined poverty eradication and sustainability, and also, the organizational structure of NEPAD as it is used to solve the problem of poverty in Nigeria.

Chapter three validated the hypothesis one: “NEPAD has achieved poverty eradication in Nigeria through skill acquisition programme”. In validating this hypothesis, the researcher looked at it from the point of “NEPAD and poverty
eradication programmes”. To further buttress his point, the researcher went into incidence of poverty in Nigeria where poverty was x-rayed. In an attempt at solving the problem of poverty, we discussed them under various skill acquisition programmes mounted by NEPAD which the researcher discussed under NEPAD and poverty eradication through skill acquisition and agriculture programmes.

Chapter four, discussed about NEPAD and human development initiatives. In other to validate hypothesis two: “NEPAD initiative has generated employment opportunities to enhance human development in Nigeria”, the researcher solved the problem by acquitting the readers on how NEPAD generated employment opportunities to solve the problem of unemployment. We rested by evolving policies that are necessary for sustainable employment generation.

With these, the researcher was able to re-affirm the readers that unemployment problems which was one of the major problems that besiege the third world countries and Nigeria in particular was able to be solved through employment generation mounted by NEPAD.

Chapter five was the summary and the conclusion (findings). The researcher also made effort in recommending that efforts should be made by the government to intensify NEPAD policy on poverty eradication through employment generation, massive investment toward capital intensive projects and that Nigeria should be mindful on the ways and manners her policies are capitalist oriented etc.

In the course of our analysis, we anchored our investigation on the theoretical persuasion of the Decision-Making theory as our theoretical framework of analysis. Among other things, the theory assumes that:
1. The nature and structure of International Economic Relations are products of interactions that result from decision-making.
2. Decision-making lies at the heart of all socio-economic and political actions.
3. The theory assumes that to ascertain who made the decisions that resulted in the action and to examine the interactive and intellectual factors that influenced the decision-makers that resulted in the formation of NEPAD, one has to focus on the society concerned either politically, socially, or economically.

4. That the forces of external, internal settings and the decision-making processes could make or mar decision to be taken. Under the internal setting, such issues as in local society like public opinion, organizational dynamics, social structure and the dominant value orientation are taken into consideration. While the external setting consists of such features as actions and reactions of other actors in the international or national arena and the physical environment to which man has come-up for live up with. On the forces that makes-up the decision-making processes are the organizational division of spheres of competence, the flow of communication (Cybernetics) and the motivation of decision-makers.

5. Such motivational factors are composed of the interests which the officials acquire in the processes of making-decision in an organization and personality traits acquired from childhood.

6. The combined efforts of impacting positivism of these factors above actually influence both the decision-makers and their actions. (Udenigwe, 2007; Varma, 1975; Anifowose & Enemuo, 1999).

We adopted the documentation design as our method of data collection. This involves the use of textbooks, journals, government/official publications, articles, internet materials etc. We relied essentially on content analysis and deductive-inductive reasoning as our method of data analysis. It is this process that enabled us to arrive at conclusions in this study.
5.2 Conclusions

Deriving from the above analysis, we conclude with the following findings:

1. That the incidence of poverty in Nigeria was becoming too alarming. This made the researcher to embark on this study to know various ways through which poverty could be eradicated. This came at the wheel of call by the world bank/IMF indicator that defined a poor country as any country whose citizens live below one dollar a day. The researcher discovered that through various training programmes mounted by NEPAD, the first hypothesis was able to be validated that actually NEPAD has achieved its poverty eradication in Nigeria through skill acquisition and agricultural programmes.

2. That NEPAD initiative generated employment that enhanced human development in Nigeria. It also helped in solving the problem of unemployment in Nigeria.

3. That NEPAD is actually a frame work to redevelop Nigeria by and for Nigerians.

4. That the incidence of poverty has drastically reduced by 57.8 percent as a result of skill acquisition, agricultural and unemployment opportunities programmes mounted to help eradicate poverty in Nigeria. (Omoh, 2005:12).

5. That NEPAD’s poverty eradication policy through skill acquisition has trained and sustained such trainees as “madam Double” (Mrs. Caroline Osanya), “Madam Kuje” (Hajai Fatima Yusuf) and Mr. Samuel Ananah. That agriculture employs about 75% of Nigeria’s population which helps to sustain food security, eradicate poverty, eliminate hunger and aids export led expansion.

6. That NEPAD’s agricultural policy has maximized the contribution of the largest economic sector to achieve sustainable poverty eradication in Nigeria through self reliance and production economies.
5.3 Recommendations:
Following from the above findings, we propose the following recommendations:

1. That government and other well meaning Nigerians should aid NEPAD’s policies through skill acquisition and agricultural programmes to enhance sustainable poverty eradication in Nigeria.

2. That government should provide the enabling environment that will enhance private partnership with a view to stimulating employment for human development in Nigeria.

3. That effort should be made by the government to intensify NEPAD’s policy to achieve sustainable poverty eradication in Nigeria. This should be done through employment generation, job creation and massive investment toward capital intensive projects. This as we believe will help to ensure sustainable poverty eradication in Nigeria (Aredo 2003, NEEDS 2004, NEPAD Nigeria 2003/07).

4. Much more South/South co-operation should be welcomed. This co-operation should be based on inter-dependence in the areas of trade, technology, scientific co-operation and on the area of energy conservation. This will help to bring about good friendliness among the Souths for exchange of labour, and other technical issues.

5. Africa and Nigeria in particular should be again be cautious in the ways and manners her country is always been integrated into the mainstream of global – capitalism – unipolar economic relation with the West. This carefulness should be made manifest to avoid been exploited, being used as an instrument to effect Eurocentric policies etc.
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